

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

Thursday, September 21, 2023  
8:34 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 Administrative Aide Julia Smith.

Public Via  
Zoom: Kenneth Thez

Public comments were solicited prior to the meeting by emailing Jackie.Purter@sonoma-county.org. Members of the public who joined the Zoom Webinar 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 August 24, 2023 Minutes.

Motion was made by Trustee Williamson, seconded by Trustee Tambe to approve the August 24, 2023 Disability Committee Meeting Minutes. The motion carried 4-0-1-0 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, those attendees were not able to hear or see the meeting. The Zoom screen indicated that the meeting was in closed session 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. ANTHONY TERRY, filed 02/25/22 for a service connected disability retirement, Heavy Equipment Mechanic II, General Services, 52.51 years old, 5.39 years of general service. Consideration under Government Code Section 31725.65 (reemployment plan) is requested.

Motion was made by Trustee Tambe and seconded by Trustee Baker to recommend that Mr. Terry be granted a service connected disability retirement under Government Code Section 31725.65. 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. LISA CERVANTES, Legal Processor II filed 09/06/22 for a service connected disability retirement. Consideration under Government Code Section 31725.65 (reemployment plan) is requested.

Motion was made by Trustee Baker and seconded by Trustee Williamson to recommend that Ms. Cervantes be denied a service connected disability retirement and be granted a non-service connected disability retirement under Government Code Section 31725.5. It was found that Ms. Cervantes is permanently incapacitated from her job duties; however, that such incapacity is not work related. 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. RICHARD SEDGWICK, Deputy Sheriff II filed 02/08/23 for a service connected disability retirement.

Motion was made by Trustee Tambe and seconded by Trustee Balzarini to recommend that Mr. Sedgwick 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. KENNETH THEZ, Deputy Sheriff II filed 02/15/23 for a service connected disability retirement.

Motion was made by Trustee Baker and seconded by Trustee Balzarini to recommend that Mr. Thez 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. ALLAN CLAWSON, filed 02/21/23 for a service connected disability retirement, Juvenile Correctional Counselor III, Probation, 46.02 years old, 20.64 years of safety service.

Motion was made by Trustee Balzarini and seconded by Trustee Williamson to recommend that Mr. Clawson 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:

6. DEANNA STEFANI, Correctional Deputy II filed 02/28/23 for a service connected disability retirement. Consideration under Government Code Section 31725.65 (reemployment plan) is requested.

Motion was made by Trustee Tambe and seconded by Trustee Williamson to recommend that Ms. Stefani be granted a service connected disability retirement under Government Code Section 31725.65. 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

7. DONALD MCCARTHY, Deputy Sheriff II filed 03/16/23 for a service connected disability retirement.

Motion was made by Trustee Baker and seconded by Trustee Balzarini to recommend that Mr. McCarthy 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

8. JOSHUA CLAASSEN, Deputy Sheriff II filed 03/27/23 for a service connected disability retirement.

Motion was made by Trustee Tambe and seconded by Trustee Balzarini to recommend that Mr. Claassen be granted a service connected disability retirement. The motion carried 3-2-0-0 with voting as follows:

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

II. EXECUTIVE SESSION, continued

B. Discussion:

Reviewed the September 2023 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.

IV. 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 with consideration under Government Code Section 31725.65 to Heavy Equipment Mechanic II Anthony Terry and Correctional Deputy II Deanna Stefani; and to grant a service connected disability retirement to Deputy Sheriff II Richard Sedgwick, Deputy Sheriff II Kenneth Thez, Juvenile Correctional Counselor III Allan Clawson and Deputy Sheriff II Donald McCarthy. The Committee voted 3-2 to recommend granting a service connected disability retirement to Deputy Sheriff II Joshua Claassen. The Committee unanimously recommended to deny a service connected disability retirement to Legal Processor II Lisa Cervantes and recommended to grant a non-service connected disability retirement under Government Code Section 31725.5.

V. GENERAL DISCUSSION MATTERS

There were no general discussion matters.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

VII. NEXT MEETING

Scheduled for Thursday, October 19, 2023 at 8:30 a.m. in the SCERA Board Room located at 433 Aviation Boulevard, Suite 100 in Santa Rosa, CA.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to conduct, the meeting was adjourned at 9:12 a.m.

IX. APPROVAL

The above minutes for the Disability Committee meeting on September 21, 2023 were approved at the Disability Committee meeting on October 19, 2023.

BRIAN WILLIAMS, CHAIR