

BOARD OF TRUSTEES
PEACE OFFICERS' RETIREMENT, ACCIDENT AND DISABILITY SYSTEM
ORAN PAPE STATE OFFICE BUILDING, DES MOINES, IOWA 50319-0050
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING HELD FEBRUARY 17,2025

The Board of Trustees of the Peace Officers' Retirement, Accident & Disability System convened on February 17, 2025, at 2:00 p.m. Members of the Board present and constituting a quorum were Chairman Stephan Bayens, Trustee Mark Oiler (Remote), Trustee Roby Smith (Remote), and Trustee Marland Winter and Trustee Robert Conrad. Others present were POR Legal Counsel John Lundquist (AG's Office), Jina Bresson (TOS), Nathan Ludwig (DPS), and Thomas Drake (DPS). DPS staff present were Director Jim Wittenwyler, POR Board Secretary Jasmine Cripps, POR Benefits Officer Senior Samantha Mitchell.

Item 1 – Introduction of POR Benefits Officer Senior Samantha Mitchell

Retirement Benefits Officer Senior Samantha Mitchell provided a brief introduction to the Trustees. Samantha had a start date of February 4, 2025. Samantha was welcomed by trustees and staff.

Item 2 - Approval of minutes from POR Board meeting held January 21, 2025

Trustee Winter made a motion to approve the minutes. Trustee Oiler seconded. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Item 3 - Application for Survivor's Benefits – Vonda Earnhart

Retired Trooper Kelly Ora Smith passed away on November 17th, 2024. POR has a QDRO on file which grants his ex-spouse, Vonda Earnhart, the rights of a surviving spouse. Vonda has submitted a complete application for survivor benefits. Staff recommends approval of Vonda Earnhart's application for survivor benefits. Trustee Conrad made a motion to approve the application. Trustee Oiler seconded. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Item 4 – Application for Survivor Benefits – Karen Elliott

Retired Captain Robert Elliott passed away on February 10th, 2025. He is survived by his spouse, Karen Elliott, to whom an application for survivor benefits has been sent. Staff recommends approval of survivor benefits for Karen Elliott contingent upon receipt of a complete application and required documents. Trustee Conrad made a motion to approve the application upon completion. Trustee Oiler seconded. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Item 5 – Request for Medical Expense Reimbursement – Ward Crawley

Accidental disability retiree Ward Crawley submitted documentation for reimbursement of \$337.15 in medical expenses not paid by his health insurance. All expenses are for the types of items that have previously been approved for reimbursement to Ward Crawley. Staff recommends approval of reimbursement for \$337.15 as submitted by Ward Crawley.

Item 6 – Treasurer's Office Monthly Reconciliation – October through December 2024

Treasurer of State's Office provided the quarterly reconciliation statement for October, November, and December 2024. The quarterly reconciliation was accepted by the board.

Item 6 – POR Legislative Update – Robert Conrad

Trustee Conrad stated that further discussion would be had prior to the next meeting on legislation. Trustee Smith confirmed that there would be a discussion next week in the legislature and the trustees would receive further information at the next meeting.

Item 7 – Open Forum

Trooper Thomas Drake had previously submitted a question to POR staff inquiring if there is a legal basis for a single person to receive benefits through a straight life annuity. Drake was previously told by POR staff that there is no legal precedence for this election. POR Board Secretary Jasmine Cripps told Drake that staff at the Municipal Fire and Police Retirement System (MFPRSI) were contacted to see what situations had occurred through their system in regard to a single person requesting a straight life annuity. MFPRSI does offer more of a selection of beneficiaries through single life annuity, however there is no financial advantage. Attorney Lundquist commented that this is a question which will require further research and that it could be an item on the next meeting's agenda.


Next POR Board Meeting - Monday, March 17th, 2025, at 2:00 p.m.
Oran Pape State Office Building; 1st Floor Public Conference Room

Adjournment. Trustee Conrad made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Trustee Winter seconded. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote. The meeting was adjourned at 2:14 p.m.

Respectfully,



Jasmine Cripps, POR Board Secretary



Samantha Mitchell, POR Board Recording Secretary