NONVERBATIM MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES, SHERIFFS’ PENSION & RELIEF FUND, HELD AT THE LOUISIANA SHERIFFS’ PENSION FUND OFFICE IN BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA AT 1:00 PM ON WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2022.

Active Sheriff Willy Martin, President

Active Sheriff Jay Russell, Vice President  
Active Sheriff Greg Champagne

Retired Sheriff Jeff Wiley  
Active Deputy Debbie McBeth  
Active Deputy Richard Corbett   
Retired Deputy Ronnie Morse

Retired Deputy Don Rittenberry

Retired Deputy Joe Seymour

Executive Director Osey McGee, Jr.

The meeting was called to order, and everyone was welcomed by Sheriff Willy Martin, President. Sheriff Jay Russell offered the invocation, and Sheriff Jeff Wiley led the pledge to the American Flag. Roll was called and those in attendance represented a quorum.

Others in attendance for the meeting included Bob Klausner, Attorney, Klausner, Kaufman, Jensen & Levinson (through conference call); Greg Curran, Actuary, Curran Actuarial Consulting; and Pension Fund staff members Keith Duplechain, Betty Sibley, Chris DeWitt, and Katie Thiebaud.

For the first presentation item, the Director recognized Assistant Director Keith Duplechain, and announced his retirement after 14 years at the Sheriffs’ Pension Fund. He was presented with a crystal award, and everyone thanked him for his outstanding service.

Next, Erik Ristuben, Chief Investment Strategist for Russell Investments, joined the Board meeting through conference call to give a global economic and market outlook presentation to the Board. Among many things, he discussed the outlook for 2023, and the Fed Fund rate and its impact on the economy. These discussions assist the Board in planning investment strategies for the future.

Next, Director McGee and Assistant CIO Chris DeWitt gave a performance report and asset allocation update and included reasons for optimism and causes for concern going forward. The following estimated returns (Net of Fees) were reported:

* July: 4.8%
* August: (2.9)%
* September: (6.8%)
* First Quarter: (5.1%)
* October: 4.3%
* November: 5.2%
* December 13th: 0.3%
* Fiscal Year to Date (December 13th): 4.4%

The report included a discussion on the unusually large number of macro factors weighing on the global markets and increasing uncertainty over global growth:

* Russia/Ukraine intense conflict
* Continuing Covid lockdowns in China
* Possibility of factors leading to recession

Next, they reported on plans looking ahead:

* Maintain strong liquidity position
* Continue to monitor the well diversified portfolio and perform any necessary rebalancing. This would be based on changes foreseen in the global markets and what the staff and Board wanted the portfolio to look like over the next 6-12 months and other intervals.
* In addition, with an ever-changing investment landscape, the Executive Director, Assistant CIO, and consultant plan to research and review new asset classes and strategies for possible addition to the portfolio.
  + Education has been focused on private markets and certain low vol strategies
  + Enhancing portfolio risk analysis with consultant at Russell.

Their asset allocation review reflected the Fund’s diversification and total assets at 12/13/2022 totaling $4,337,236,901.21.

For the next presentation, and the primary purpose of the meeting, Actuary Greg Curran gave a presentation on the 2022 Actuarial Valuation report for the Fiscal Year ending 6/30/2022. For educational purposes, Greg reviewed highlights of the report in detail and presented comparisons in data with the previous year’s (2021) report. A hard copy of the report was provided to Board members. As the Board had previously voted to reduce the rate by 5 basis points annually to incrementally decrease the valuation interest rate to 6.50%, the valuation was completed based upon a 6.85% valuation interest rate. Greg reminded Board members of the payoff of the frozen unfunded accrued liability (UAL)in 2023 which will result in annual savings.

After completion of the presentation, Sheriff Jeff Wiley made a motion to approve of the 2022 Actuarial Valuation Report. Don Rittenberry seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.[[1]](#endnote-1)

Director McGee led a legislative agenda discussion for the upcoming legislative session. After requests by some sheriffs and the LSA for legislation, he and Board President Sheriff Willy Martin planned to form a Board Committee to work with Pension Staff and Greg Curran. This Committee, Sheriff Martin stated, would be appointed at the beginning of the year after further discussion and research.

Next, Sheriff Jeff Wiley made a motion to approve the following tentative Board meeting schedule for 2023:

* Wednesday, February 8, 2023
* Wednesday, May 24, 2023
* August 2023 – Training only, no meeting
* Wednesday, September 27, 2023
* Wednesday, December 6, 2023

It was noted that additional Board meetings may be set to accommodate special needs, and Committee meetings will be set on an as needed basis. Don Rittenberry seconded, and the motion passed.[[2]](#endnote-2)

Director McGee asked the Board to approve a resolution adopting the Audit Compliance Questionnaire required yearly as a part of the Fund’s audit, and to authorize the Director to sign it. A motion for approval was made by Joe Seymour and seconded by Don Rittenberry. The motion passed unanimously.[[3]](#endnote-3)

Next, the Director reviewed correspondence from State Treasurer John Schroder sent on December 12th regarding environmental, social and governance (ESG) investments by money managers. The Director thanked Treasurer Schroder for his courtesy in sending the letter.

Richard Corbett made a motion to approve the May 25, 2022 Board meeting minutes, along with the applications for reciprocal recognition of service and transfers, as well as applications for retirement, BackDROP, disability, and survivor benefits. Joe Seymour seconded, and the motion passed.[[4]](#endnote-4)

A motion was made by Sheriff Wiley to enter into executive session concerning pending ligation as permitted by RS 42.17(a)(10) and further to receive advice from counsel relating to RS 11:82 and 11:2174 on matters which are privileged under RS 44:4.1 C and Louisiana Code of Evidence Art. 506 to take possible action thereafter in Open Session. Joe Seymour seconded, and the motion passed.

When the Board returned to regular session, Legal Counsel stated that the record should show that no action was taken during executive session. Richard Corbett made a motion to adopt the advice of legal counsel and instructed him to proceed accordingly. Joe Seymour seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**Adjourn**

With no further business to consider, Sheriff Jeff Wiley made a motion and Don Rittenberry seconded to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed and the meeting was adjourned.

I hereby certify to the best of my knowledge and belief that the above and foregoing is a true and correct synopsis of the proceedings of the meeting of the Board of Trustees on December 14, 2022.

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Osey McGee, Jr. Executive Director

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Katie Thiebaud, Executive Assistant

Motions and Concurrences:

1. Approval of 2022 Actuarial Valuation [↑](#endnote-ref-1)
2. Approval of 2023 Tentative Board Meeting Dates [↑](#endnote-ref-2)
3. Approval of Audit Compliance Questionnaire [↑](#endnote-ref-3)
4. Approval of May 25, 2022 Board Meeting Minutes, applications for reciprocal recognition of service and transfers, and applications for retirement, backDROP, disability and survivor benefits. [↑](#endnote-ref-4)