

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
PUBLIC SAFETY RETIREMENT BOARD
OF THE TOWN OF CHINO VALLEY**

THURSDAY, JUNE 25, 2026

9:30 AM

PUBLIC WORKS CONFERENCE ROOM | 1950 VOSS DRIVE | CHINO VALLEY, ARIZONA 86323

1. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL

Mayor Armstrong called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

Present: Mayor Tom Armstrong, Board Member Cheryl Romley, Sergeant Jon Szymanski

Absent:

Staff Present: Human Resources Director Laura Kyriakakis, PSRB Attorney Nicolas Cornelius - remote

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a. Consideration and possible action to approve the February 25, 2026, special meeting minutes.

There was no discussion on this item.

MOVED by Board Member Cheryl Romley, seconded by Sergeant Jon Szymanski to approve the February 25, 2026, special meeting minutes.

AYE: Mayor Tom Armstrong, Board Member Cheryl Romley, Sergeant Jon Szymanski

NAY: None

3 - 0 Passed - Unanimously

3. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Update on two new Public Safety Retirement Board member applications going to Town Council for recommended approval.

Laura Kyriakakis, Human Resources Director, presented the following:

- Two new applicants are set to be approved to join the Board on July 14th.
- The applicants are Jack Miller, member of the public, and Brent Giuliani, Detective for the Police Department.

4. EXECUTIVE SESSION

- a. An executive session for legal advice pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431.03(A)(3); and pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431.03(A)(2) for discussion and consideration of records exempt by law from public inspection with regard to:

- Review of Craig Stephenson AZPost Application and Medical Questionnaire.
- Disability application for David Herrera, originally dated February 20, 2025.
- Review of David Herrera Independent Medical Evaluation dated July 1, 2025, 1st Addendum to IME dated January 21, 2026, and 2nd Addendum to IME dated April 16, 2026.

MOVED by Sergeant Jon Szymanski, seconded by Board Member Cheryl Romley to enter Executive Session at 9:33 a.m.

AYE: Mayor Tom Armstrong, Board Member Cheryl Romley, Sergeant Jon Szymanski

NAY: None

3 - 0 Passed - Unanimously

Executive Session ended at 10:00 a.m.

5. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Consideration and possible action to accept Craig Stephenson into the Public Safety Personnel Retirement System (PSPRS), effective June 4, 2026, and active contributor to PSPRS pension, effective September 2, 2026.

There was no discussion on this item.

MOVED by Sergeant Jon Szymanski, seconded by Board Member Cheryl Romley to accept Craig Stephenson into PSPRS.

AYE: Mayor Tom Armstrong, Board Member Cheryl Romley, Sergeant Jon Szymanski

NAY: None

3 - 0 Passed - Unanimously

- b. Consideration and possible action to terminate Hector Torres from PSPRS, effective June 1, 2026.

There was no discussion on this item.

MOVED by Board Member Cheryl Romley, seconded by Sergeant Jon Szymanski to terminate Hector Torres from PSPRS effective June 1, 2026.

AYE: Mayor Tom Armstrong, Board Member Cheryl Romley, Sergeant Jon Szymanski

NAY: None

3 - 0 Passed - Unanimously

- c. Consideration and possible action to terminate Deana Winn from PSPRS, effective June 6, 2026.

There was no discussion on this item.

MOVED by Sergeant Jon Szymanski, seconded by Board Member Cheryl Romley to terminate Deana Winn from PSPRS, effective June 6, 2026.

AYE: Mayor Tom Armstrong, Board Member Cheryl Romley, Sergeant Jon Szymanski

NAY: None

3 - 0 Passed - Unanimously

- d. Consideration and possible action to accept or deny the disability application for David Herrera.

Cassidy Bacon, Attorney for Mr. Herrera, presented the following:

- Thanked the Board for the opportunity to send the matter back to Dr. Parker.
- Upon review of further information, Dr. Parker concluded that Mr. Herrera did not have a pre-existing psychiatric condition.
- Further evaluation, testing, and review of Dr. Parker's evaluation was conducted by Mike Carlton under the supervision of Dr. Katherine Kuhlman, and it was determined that Mr. Herrera meets the diagnostic criteria for Chronic PTSD with Delayed Expression and was caused by cumulative traumatic exposures during his service as a police officer. It was also found that he never sought VA disability benefits for PTSD related to his military service.
- While the Board cannot rely on Dr. Kuhlman's office rather than Dr. Parker's, the evaluation does demonstrate that another qualified evaluator has reviewed the same information and come to a different professional conclusion.
- Discussed Mr. Herrera's personnel records showing a change in behavior and the disagreements as to the reason why, Dr. Parker stating it was voluntary and Mr. Carlton citing PTSD. She felt Dr. Parker should have an opportunity to respond to competing professional analysis, which would be prudent as additional information has previously caused him to materially revise his opinion. Mr. Carlton has stated he would have his report done by early next week.
- Should the Board conclude the disagreement between professionals warrants a fresh evaluation, Ms. Bacon and her client request that a new IME be done with someone who has experience in public safety psychology. However, their primary request is that the Board defer any final decision until they have been able to consider a complete response from Mr. Carlton.

The Board and attorneys discussed the following:

- The Board stated that they are declining the request to delay the final decision until the completion of Mr. Carlton's report.
- Mr. Cornelius stated the Board is basing their decision on the documents received from Mr. Herrera's initial application, supplemental documents provided by him and his counsel, the Independent Medical Exam Board and Dr. Parker, personnel documents and work history, etc.

MOVED by Board Member Cheryl Romley, seconded by Sergeant Jon Szymanski to deny Mr. Herrera's request for disability.

AYE: Mayor Tom Armstrong, Board Member Cheryl Romley, Sergeant Jon Szymanski

NAY: None

3 - 0 Passed - Unanimously

Laura Kyriakakis, Human Resources Director, facilitated completion of the P5-LB-A form for the disability packet.

6. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Armstrong adjourned the meeting at 10:15 a.m.

Submitted: June 29, 2026.

By: Sara Burchill, Deputy Town Clerk

Approved:

DRAFT