

**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**

**August 1, 2024 - 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:** Patrick McFadden, President; Hal Dardick, Secretary; Tanya Anthony, Lakeisha Marvel, Kevin Ochalla, Jerry Pray, Samuel Richardson, Jr.

**Staff Present:** Brent Lewandowski, Executive Director; Saron Tegegne, Deputy Executive Director; Margaret Fahrenbach, Legal Advisor; Gary LeDonne, Director, Benefits Administration; Stephen Wolff, Director of Investments; Francis Gonzalez-Crussi, Senior IT Manager; Teagan Kusbel, Summer Intern

**Others Present:** Mary Pat Burns, Burke Burns & Pinelli, Ltd.

President McFadden stated that there was a quorum of the Board present at the meeting and that certain trustees had asked to participate remotely. It was moved by Trustee Richardson and seconded by Trustee Anthony, pursuant to Section 7(a) of the Open Meetings Act, that the Board allow trustees who were not able to be physically present at the meeting to participate remotely.

Vote Result: MOTION ADOPTED BY VOICE VOTE

President McFadden asked if anyone present wanted to address the Board, but no one requested to do so.

1. Review and Consideration of Approval of the July 11, 2024, Board Meeting Minutes

It was moved by Trustee Dardick and seconded by Trustee Richardson that the presented minutes of the Board meeting on July 11, 2024, be adopted.

Vote Result: MOTION ADOPTED BY VOICE VOTE

2. Review and Approval of:

a. Bills, Payroll Records

It was moved by Trustee Richardson and seconded by Trustee Dardick, having received confirmation from Fund staff that the indicated payments were consistent with the 2024 administrative budget, that the Board ratify the action taken by Fund staff in July 2024, in paying the presented bills for expenses incurred in 2024 and that the Board approve the recommendations from Fund staff to remit payments for the presented bills for expenses incurred in 2024.

Roll Call Vote:

AYES: Anthony, Dardick, Marvel, Ochalla, Pray, Richardson,  
McFadden  
NAYS: None

Vote Result: MOTION ADOPTED

b. Annuities, Spouse and Child Annuities and Refunds

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

Roll Call Vote:

AYES: Anthony, Dardick, Marvel, Ochalla, Pray, Richardson  
McFadden  
NAYS: None

Vote Result: MOTION ADOPTED

c. Ordinary and Duty Disabilities

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

Roll Call Vote:

AYES: Anthony, Dardick, Marvel, Ochalla, Pray, Richardson,  
McFadden  
NAYS: None

Vote Result: MOTION ADOPTED

### 3. Trustee Matters

#### a. Confirmation of the Board President's 2024 Election Committee

President McFadden informed the Board that he appointed Trustee Goode, Trustee Anthony and Trustee Pray to the 2024 Election Committee pursuant to the Election Rules approved by the Board. He stated that none of these trustees were up for election this year.

It was moved by Trustee Dardick and seconded by Trustee Marvel that the Board, pursuant to the previously adopted Election Rules, approve the designation of an ad hoc Election Committee for the purposes of the election of trustees in October 2024, and in accordance with the direction of the Board President, that Trustee Goode, Trustee Anthony and Trustee Pray shall serve on the Committee.

Vote Result: MOTION ADOPTED BY VOICE VOTE

### 4. Administrative Matters

#### a. Request for Authorization to Forward to the Office of the State's Attorney Matters Regarding Fraudulent Checks

President McFadden stated that the Fund had been notified of fraudulent checks that had been presented for payment to BNY/Mellon. The checks did not clear because of internal controls in place and there were no losses to the Fund. The Fund staff believes that the fraudulent checks constitute fraudulent statements that should be reported to the Office of the Cook County State's Attorney as required by the Illinois Pension Code.

It was moved by Trustee Anthony and seconded by Trustee Dardick that the Board find that there were reasonable suspicions that the indicated check presented for payment appeared to constitute false statements or falsified records within the meaning of Section 1-135 of the Illinois Pension Code, 40 ILCS 5/1-135. In accordance with 40 ILCS 5/1-135, the Fund was authorized to report the incidents on behalf of the Board to the Cook County State's Attorney.

Vote Result: MOTION ADOPTED BY VOICE VOTE

#### b. Request Authorization to Execute a Contract with Farmhouse Consulting for Pension Administration System Consulting Agreement as Authorized by Board on May 2, 2024

Brent Lewandowski, Executive Director, stated that the Board had directed the Fund to contact Linea Solutions who had provided services as a consultant for the Fund's RFP for a pension administration system (PAS) to determine if they would be available to update the RFP and to complete the selection process. The project manager made available to the Fund, Stephen James, was no longer employed by Linea. Upon leaving

Linea, he had formed Farmhouse Consulting which also provided PAS consulting services. The Fund had received the best and final offers from both Linea and Farmhouse Consulting to update and complete the RFP. The rates from Linea had increased and the Fund determined that Farmhouse Consulting provided more competitive terms for the project. The vendor agreed to obtain any authorizations needed to do business in Illinois, Cook County and Chicago. The Executive Director presented a Consulting Agreement that had been signed by the vendor and approved as to form by fiduciary counsel.

It was moved by Trustee Richardson and seconded by Trustee Dardick that the Board authorize the Fund to engage Farmhouse Consulting to provide services regarding an RFP for a PAS upon the terms presented. It was further moved that the Executive Director be authorized, on behalf of the Fund, to execute the presented Consulting Agreement that had been signed by the vendor and approved as to form by fiduciary counsel.

Roll Call Vote:

AYES: Anthony, Dardick, Marvel, Ochalla, Pray, Richardson, McFadden

NAYS: None

Vote Result: MOTION ADOPTED

c. Review and Consideration of Approval of Trustee Election Electronic Voting Vendor Proposal

The Executive Director reported that the Fund had been in negotiation with Simply Voting to provide services for electronic voting for the Trustee Election in 2024. Although Simply Voting had provided services to other Illinois entities, it was not authorized to do business in Illinois. The Fund notified Simply Voting that it must obtain the required authorization. Simply Voting proposed that it would charge the Fund an additional \$500 to do so.

The trustees discussed the need for its vendors to comply with all laws regarding the authorization required for an entity to do business in Illinois, Cook County and the City of Chicago. They directed that all RFPs should include a representation that all vendors meet these requirements and that the vendors provide their registration numbers. They discussed that it was not sufficient time for the Fund to retain a different vendor for electronic voting for the election in 2024, but they were not willing to assume the Simply Voting's costs for complying with State and local laws.

It was moved by Trustee Ochalla and seconded by Trustee Richardson that the Fund reject the proposal made by Simply Voting that specifically required the Fund to cover its fees and costs incurred in order to comply with the legal requirements for doing business in Illinois.

Vote Result: MOTION ADOPTED BY VOICE VOTE

- d. Upcoming Committee Meeting Dates
  - i. Investment Committee – August 29, 2024, 9:30 am
  - ii. Health Benefits Committee – TBD

The Executive Director stated that the Investment Committee would meet on August 29, 2024. A meeting of the Health Benefits Committee would be scheduled in August.

- e. Legal Report

President McFadden stated that Burke Burns & Pinelli, Ltd. had provided a status report of pending legal matters for the Board’s review.

It was moved by Trustee Dardick and seconded by Trustee Richardson that the presented status report be received and filed.

Vote Result: MOTION ADOPTED BY VOICE VOTE

5. Legal Matters

- a. Referral to Hearing Officer
  - i. Office #145425

The Executive Director stated that this member had been denied disability benefits because the application was not filed in the time required and that the Board did not find there was a reasonable cause for delay.

The trustees discussed that most administrative hearings were conducted because members did not complete the application process or failed to file the application in a timely manner. The trustees stated that referrals to hearing officers provided due process to members whose applications had been denied.

It was moved by Trustee Anthony and seconded by Trustee Richardson that the Board approve the referral of the administrative hearing requested by the Member identified by Office #145425 to Mr. William Motto for a review to be conducted in accordance with the Fund’s Procedural Rules Governing Administrative Hearings and with the 2024 administrative budget.

Vote Result: MOTION ADOPTED BY VOICE VOTE

6. Old Business/New Business

There was no old business or new business discussed.

7. Adjournment

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

Vote Result: MOTION ADOPTED BY VOICE VOTE

The next Board meeting was scheduled for September 5, 2024, at 9:30 am.