

**Milwaukee County Employees' Retirement System (ERS)
Audit Committee Meeting
MINUTES**

Call to Order

Chairperson Vera Westphal called the Audit Committee meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. on Thursday, February 4, 2016 in the Commission Room (210) of the Milwaukee County Courthouse, 901 N. 9th Street, Milwaukee, WI 53233.

Board Members Present:

Laurie Braun
Aimee Funck
Norb Gedemer
D. A. Leonard
Vera Westphal

Others Present:

Erika Bronikowski
James Carroll
Mark Grady
Steven Huff
Marian Ninneman
Vivian Aikin

1. Topic: Disability Retirement Process

The Committee reviewed in depth potential changes to the Ordinances and Rules regarding disability retirement. Discussion centered on three specific areas: "any job" standard, membership requirement and State law. Ms. Ninneman provided the Committee with a description of the County's Return to Work/Job Relocation Program under the direction of Sue Chase. Since Ms. Chase performs a vocational analysis for members entering her program, ERS will provide MMRO with this information to assist with disability applicants under the any job standard for the time being. The Committee also discussed possible limits on allowing terminated members to apply for disability pensions. Finally the Committee took up the recent law passed by the State of Wisconsin (Wis. Stat. 59.88) regarding accidental disability benefits. Effective for accidental disability retirement applications submitted on or after July 14, 2015, benefits may only be granted for mental injury if the mental injury exceeds the day-to-day stresses of the applicant's employment. To be approved the County must certify that the mental injury is duty-related. Should an applicant be found ineligible, any appeal would be made to the State's Department of Workforce Development.

The Committee decided that all requests for Ordinance amendments and Rule changes should be made at one time. The topic will be discussed again at the March Audit Committee meeting before presentation to the full Pension Board at a future meeting.

2. Topic: Statement of Economic Interest Filing Frequency

The Committee discussed the possibility of changing the frequency of filing their Statement of Economic Interest document from quarterly to annually. This topic will be brought before the full Board at the February meeting.

3. Topic: Normal Retirement Age 64 Early Retirement Possible Ordinance Amendment

Mr. Grady presented a draft Ordinance amendment regarding early retirement for members with a normal retirement age of 64. Mr. Huff raised questions on the Retirement Office's past practices that will require further research. It was decided to hold over this topic until the March Audit Committee meeting.

4. Topic: Amendment of ERS Rules to Conform to Recent Ordinance Amendments on Optional Benefits

Since the County Board recently amended Ordinance §201.24(7.1) and repealed Ordinance §201.24(7.2), certain ERS Rules now need to be revised accordingly. Mr. Huff presented a draft of Rule changes. After discussion, the Committee decided to recommended approval of these changes when the full Pension Board meets on February 17th.

The Audit Committee meeting adjourned at 3:05 p.m.