

**ST. MARY'S COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE RETIREMENT PLAN
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
September 22, 2016**

Members Present: Dr. Rebecca Bridgett, County Administrator
Captain Terry Black, Sheriff's Office Representative
Lt. Edward Evans, Sheriff's Office Representative

Others Present: Catherine Pratson, Plan Administrator
Karen Gates, Recorder

Absent: Jeannett Cudmore, Chief Financial Officer
Dr. Tracy Harris, Citizen Representative

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m.

Acceptance of the Agenda

The agenda was accepted as presented by Rebecca Bridgett.

Approval of Minutes

Edward Evans made a motion, seconded by Terry Black, to approve the August 25, 2016 meeting minutes. Motion carried.

Update of Eleventh Amendment

A public hearing was held on September 13, 2016 to consider the proposed 11th Amendment to the Sheriff's Office Retirement Plan. There were no public comments received on the proposed amendment during the public hearing or the additional seven day open comment period.

A decision to amend the Sheriff's Office Retirement Plan document to exclude contractual employees from the definition of "covered employee" for the purposes of participating in the Sheriff's Office Pension Plan is expected by the Commissioners of St. Mary's County at their September 27, 2016 BOCC meeting. Should the amendment be approved, the effective date of the amendment would be October 1, 2016.

Waiting Period for rehired SORP Retirees

An item of discussion concerning a waiting period between retirement and reinstatement was raised at the Commissioners meeting and at the August 2016 Sheriff's Office Retirement Board meeting. The Sheriff's Office Personnel Manual contains a provision that rehired Sheriff's Office retirees must wait 45 days to be rehired. The County has a 90-day rehire provision. In addition, the Maryland State Pension System imposes a 45 day waiting period before a retiree of the pension system can be rehired. The Plan Attorney advised that a waiting period provision would be better served in the Sheriff's Office personnel manual than in the Sheriff's Office Retirement Plan document. Although there are no tax implications for not having a waiting period, the Plan Attorney stated that it would be in our best interest to have a waiting period. The waiting period establishes a bona fide separation of employment. A memo dated September 7, 2016 was sent to the County Commissioners stating such, and this satisfies Commissioner O'Connor's concern. No action is necessary or was taken from the Sheriff's Office Retirement Board.

Pre-Trial Case Manager Position

There were several questions raised at the August 2016 Sheriff’s Office Retirement Board meeting and a desire for more information regarding whether or not the Pre-Trial Services Case Manager position should be eligible to participate in the Sheriff’s Office Retirement Plan. Catherine Pratson reached out to Charles and Calvert counties because they both have similar positions. The position at Calvert County is a civilian position but they anticipate it will move to a sworn position. Charles County has not responded. After discussion by Board members, it was agreed that Catherine Pratson would compile an overview of benefits between a civilian vs a sworn position to present at the October 2016 Sheriff’s Office Retirement Board meeting.

Administrator’s Report

BILLS PAID SINCE LAST MEETING:

DATE	PAYEE	TYPE SERVICE	AMOUNT
09/12/16	Bolton Partners	Professional services rendered through 08/31/16.	\$ 135.00
9/08/16	Whiteford, Taylor & Preston	Professional services rendered through 8/31/16.	\$ 1,750.00
TOTAL:			\$ 1,885.00

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 27, 2016.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at approximately 1:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

APPROVED:

Karen Gates
SORP Plan Coordinator

Dr. Rebecca B. Bridgett
Chair