

**PENSION BENEFITS COUNCIL
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
July 18, 2023**

I. CALL TO ORDER

- A. Location: Bennazar, García & Milián C.S.P. & videoconference
- B. Time: The meeting began at 2:03 pm

II. ATTENDANCE

PENSION BENEFITS COUNCIL MEMBER	ATTENDANCE
Financial Oversight and Management Board for Puerto Rico	
Mr. Jason Fichtner	Excused
Official Committee of Retirees of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico	
Mrs. Carmen H. Núñez Rodríguez	Present
Mrs. Blanca E. Paniagua Adorno	Present (Teleconference)
Mr. Juan Ortiz Curet	Present (Teleconference)
Mrs. Wanda G. Santiago López	Present
Carlos A. Cabán García, Esq.	Present
American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees	
Mr. Iram Ramírez Linares	Present (Teleconference)
Mrs. Sandra Pacheco Santiago	Present (Teleconference)
Commonwealth of Puerto Rico	
Rita González, Esq. in representation of Omar Marrero Díaz	Present (Teleconference)
Guests: Héctor Mayol and Francisco del Castillo from Bennazar, García & Milián C.S.P.;	

Jorge Marchand, Iris González and María Schell from Marchand ICS Group; Maricarmen López, Lissette Núñez, José Vicente and Julián Bayne from the Pension Reserve Board.

III. AGENDA

- A. Quorum:
 - 1. Wanda Santiago, Secretary, certified the quorum with the attendance of seven members of the Pension Benefits Council.
- B. Presentation of the Web page of the Pension Reserve Board:
 - 1. Maricarmen López, Executive Director of the Pension Reserve Board presented the page of the Pension Reserve Board. The page is not yet published, it was projected during the meeting and Maricarmen López reviewed and explained each of the components of the page.
 - 2. The page that was presented was in English and it is expected to be published in both languages in the next few days.
- C. Presentation regarding the Meeting of Candidates and the Election Process:
 - 1. Carmen Núñez and Carlos Cabán excused themselves from this part of the meeting because they are candidates for the Pension Benefits Council.
 - 2. Iris González from Marchand ICS Group provided a report on the candidate meetings. A total of 19 candidates attended, divided between 14 in San Juan and 5 in Ponce. For the Employee Retirement System there are 7 candidates, for the Teachers Retirement System there are 6 candidates, for the Judiciary Retirement System there are 2 candidates and for active participants 4 candidates. Once the process was completed, the 19 candidates were certified by the Election Administrator.
 - 3. On the other hand, Iris González indicated that on Thursday, July 20, 2023, a raffle will take place to determine the order of the candidates on the ballot. The raffle will take place in a conference room in Los Chavales and candidates can also participate by teleconference. The raffle will be made for each withdrawal system starting at 9:00 am and ending at 11:30 am.
 - 4. Jorge Marchand also explained that Kroll's Craig Johnson will be present during the raffle. On the other hand, he indicated that no person had to be disqualified and that all communication with the candidates has been adequate without raising any protest or allegation about the process.
 - 5. Jorge Marchand reviewed the election calendar indicating that:
 - i. August 4, 2023: The Notice of Election containing the official list of candidates for the Pension Benefits Council will be published.

- ii. August 17, 2023: the call center begins to operate with the training that Maricarmen Schell.
 - iii. August 21, 2023: The radio and press campaign on the election process will begin.
 - iv. August 28, 2023: collection centers will open.
6. Iram Ramírez asked which candidates withdrew from the electoral process. Jorge Marchand indicated that Fredeswinda Valentín Valentín is a participant from the Teachers Retirement System and Enrique Vélez Casiano from the Employee Retirement System.
7. Members of the Pension Benefits Council expressed concern about certain campaigns where representations about the Pension Reserve Trust are made that are believed to be incorrect. It was discussed that it should be each candidate who campaigns and that the Pension Benefits Council, as a general rule, will not intervene in this process, unless it is necessary to clarify to the general public any misinformation about the Pension Benefits Council, the Pension Reserve Trust or that it may affect the electoral process.

D. Reading and Approval of the Previous Minutes:

1. The Pension Benefits Council approved the minutes of the meeting of June 21, 2023.

E. Completed and Pending Items:

1. Francisco del Castillo gave details regarding the completed matters:
 - i. The annual report for fiscal year 2021-2022 was published on the website of the Pension Benefits Council.
 - ii. Letters were sent to the Director of the Office of Management and Budget and to the Executive Director of the Fiscal Oversight Board regarding the approved budget for Fiscal Year 2023-2024.
 - iii. The meeting of candidates was held as provided in the Guidelines to establish the formal list of candidates to be elected.
 - iv. All the contracts were renewed and filed with the Comptroller's Office, except the one for FTI Consulting, which is still in process.
2. Regarding the pending issues, Francisco del Castillo indicated:
 - i. Audit of financial statements for fiscal years 2021-2022 and 2022-2023: the auditing firm has already been hired and the first drafts

of financial statements have been prepared by the accounting firm.

- ii. Annual Report to the Department of State: the accounting firm requested an extension to file.
- iii. Tax Exemption Application of the non-profit corporation: the accounting firm received all the necessary information and for July 26, 2023 we have scheduled a meeting to complete any other process to submit the application.
- iv. Pending regulations and Orientation Program: for August 8, 2023, a meeting with the Executive Committee is scheduled to establish the work calendar until December 31, 2023.

F. Stipends and Invoices from providers:

1. Stipends: At the last meeting, a table prepared by Carlos Cabán with the stipends for each member was circulated and it was amended during the meeting. For record purposes, the amended stipend table was circulated as part of the minute materials.
2. Invoices:
 - i. Kroll Restructuring Administration LLC: Election Administrator
 - a. Invoice # 21399 of May 2023 for \$30,109.
 - b. On the other hand, Francisco del Castillo indicated that they recently presented an invoice for \$27,649.25 for the month of June 2023 (although said invoice was not circulated for approval at this meeting). However, the budget allocated for Fiscal Year 2022-2023 to the Election Administrator is \$37,500, representing an excess of \$20,258.25.
 - c. The Pension Benefits Council agreed to hold the payment of the invoices until the Election Administrator explains the reason for the excess of the invoices in comparison to what was budgeted for the current fiscal year.
 - ii. Rita Inc. - Invoice #10342 from the June 21 meeting for \$208.00 was approved by the Pension Benefits Council.
 - iii. NMA:
 - a. Invoice # 1010885 of varied services for \$1,432.50 was approved by the Pension Benefits Council

- b. Invoice # 1010145 for June in the amount \$1,291.66 was previously approved and paid, but it was not included in the minute of June 8, 2023, so its payment is ratified. The Benefits Council agreed to require the contractor to issue a single invoice per month once the services are due.
- iv. Bennazar, García & Milián C.S.P.: invoice #230501 for services for the month of May for \$23,784.50 was approved by the Pension Benefits Council

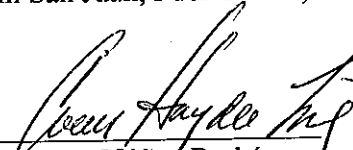
G. Other Matters:

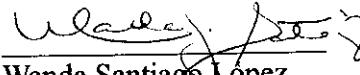
- 1. The Pension Benefits Council agreed to meet on August 10, 2023, at 10:00 am.

IV. CLOSING

- A. The meeting adjourned at 3:24 p.m.

In San Juan, Puerto Rico, on September 13, 2023.


Carmen Núñez Rodríguez
President


Wanda Santiago López
Secretary

