

**West Palm Beach Police Pension Fund
2100 North Florida Mango Road
West Palm Beach, Florida 33409**

Minutes

**April 11, 2025
8:30 AM**

CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER

Mr. Frost called to order the West Palm Beach Police Pension Fund Meeting on April 11, 2025, at 8:30 AM, in the main conference room of the Ernest George Building of the Palm Beach County Police Benevolent Association.

Present at the meeting: Jonathan Frost, Board Chairman; Troy Marchese, Board Secretary; Josph Ahern, Board Trustee; Sean Williams, Board Trustee.

Also present: DJ Taylor & Casey Cass, Barrow Hanley; Brendon Vavrica, Mariner Institutional; Bonni Jensen, Board Attorney - Klausner, Kaufman, Jensen & Levinson; and Dave Williams, Plan Administrator.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Mr. Frost asked if there were any changes required to the minutes of March 14, 2025. Mr. Ahern made the motion to approve the minutes, which was seconded by Mr. Marchese. All Trustees voted yes, and the motion was passed 4-0.

INFORMAL DISABILITY HEARING – Christopher Clark

Mrs. Jensen presented a review of the claim for non-service disability filed by Mr. Clark. Mrs. Jensen advised that Mr. Clark resigned on January 06, 2025 and was not terminated for medical reason(s). She reviewed the report of Dr. Faridani, who conducted the (IME) independent medical examination¹. At the conclusion of the report, the Board identified that Mr. Clark has a history of atrial fibrillation (A. Fib}, hypertension (HTN}, and obstructive sleep apnea (OSA}. He suffered from significant blood pressure fluctuations, leading to intermittent dizziness, palpitations, and near-syncopal episodes. Mr. Clark stated in the IME that stress causes his BP to spike, making it difficult to work safely.

During the evaluation by Dr. Faridani, Mr. Clark was made aware of his significantly elevated blood pressure (199/90 mmHg). Upon recognition, he independently chose to take his prescribed Losartan medication during the interview. He was encouraged to recheck his blood pressure in 30 minutes. If his blood pressure remained elevated, Dr. Faridani advised him to seek immediate medical attention at an urgent care facility, his primary care physician's office, or the emergency room.

At the time of the IME assessment, Mr. Clark was asymptomatic, denying chest pain, shortness of breath, headache, or other acute concerns. The risks of uncontrolled hypertension, including stroke, transient ischemic attack (TIA), vision changes, and the potential for fatal complications, were explained in detail. Mr. Clark verbalized understanding of these risks and agreed to follow the recommended course of action.

¹ Trustees had all the records of Mr. Clark prior to meeting to review independently.

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Dr. Faridani noted that Mr. Clark has a history of essential hypertension (for more than five years, per his report) that remains poorly controlled despite pharmacologic management with Losartan 50 mg BID. His condition is associated with intermittent chest tightness, palpitations, and blood pressure variability, particularly in high-stress environments.

The Board discussed the fact that Mr. Clark filed for non-duty disability and based on the totality of the facts it appears that there is a rebuttable presumption to a claim of line of duty disability. Mr. Clark resigned so he is wholly prevented from providing useful and efficient service as a police officer. Further, Dr. Faridani felt Mr. Clark's condition would have to be optimized before returning to service. Further, Dr. Faridani cited reasonable accommodation(s) would be required, which is unrealistic due to the requirements of the job. Dr. Faridani spoke to continuous and permanent status by citing whether Mr. Clark's condition could be controlled by medical intervention but also noted over 5 years of medical treatment for the condition.

After considering the foregoing and the medical records on file, Mr. Sean Williams made a motion to grant a non-service disability for Mr. Clark, with an effective date of his resignation. Mr. Ahern seconded the motion. All Trustees voted yes, and the motion was passed 4-0.

Mr. Jensen will prepare a formal order for the next meeting. Mr. Williams will contact Mr. Clark and prepare his final benefit calculation.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Mrs. Jensen presented an updated Investment Performance Monitoring Addendum with Mariner Institutional. After review and discussion, Mr. Sean Williams made the motion to have the authorized signors execute the Addendum. The motion was seconded by Mr. Ahern. All Trustees voted yes, and the motion was passed 4-0.

Mrs. Jensen is working with city representatives to establish a date and time to present the state of the pension at a commission workshop meeting.

Mrs. Jensen cited the Affiliated Housing Fund II documents were completed and the Plan made the first closing.

Mrs. Jensen is preparing a response to the court in the LaFrance Matter.

Mrs. Jensen is working with the city clinic on pension physicals, due to a turnover of providers.

Mrs. Jensen cited the passing of (widow) B. Davis. Partial recovery was made by the custodian.

Mrs. Jensen advised there was an order from the court appointing guardianship for the minor child of Joshua Ballesteros (DOD: 04/14/2024), but Mrs. Jensen is awaiting account information in order to begin benefit payments.

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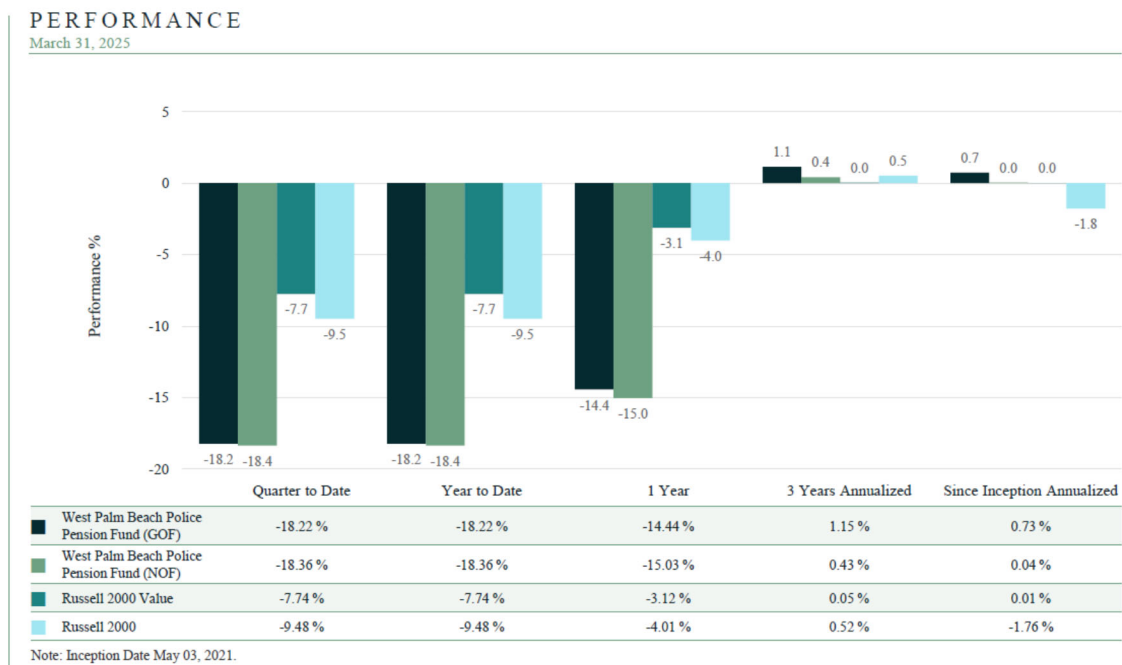
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INVESTMENT REPORT - Barrow Hanley – Small Cap Value

Mr. DJ Taylor & Mr. Casey Cass, Barrow Hanley presented a portfolio update to the Board of Trustees.

The representatives reminded the Board that their Small Cap Value Equity strategy is designed to exploit inefficiencies in the small cap sector of the market by carefully employing high value added, proprietary research to a universe of small capitalization, low-expectation stocks. This process is directed toward the discovery of companies in which the value of the underlying business is significantly greater than the market price. We refer to this phenomenon as the “value gap”. A “value gap” is typically indicated by below-average P/E ratios (on normalized earnings and relative to the market), above-average free cash flow yields, as well as better than market levels of internal growth and return on capital.

Barrow Hanley’s Small Cap Value strategy has clearly been outpaced by the benchmark for the last year.



Small Cap Commentary provided: The first quarter of 2025 started well in January, but deteriorated as uncertainty related to tariffs, Fed policy, consumer strength, industrial production and AI / Technology progressed through February and March.

We view the fourth quarter of 2018 as the best near-term analogue to this past quarter. During that period, concerns over tariffs and fed policy errors caused a panic that temporarily impacted our relative performance: during the fourth quarter of 2018 our portfolio declined approximately 25% compared to a 19% decline for the benchmark. We fared better on an absolute basis in the first quarter of 2025 than in the fourth quarter of 2018, but so did the benchmark.

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We were cautiously optimistic regarding a bullish 2025 when we saw the U.S. ISM Manufacturing PMI data expand in January after two years in contraction. Interestingly, other than 1951-1953, this is the only period in which the U.S. economy has suffered a two-year contraction in ISM manufacturing PMIs without a recession. However, tariff fears pulled forward demand in February and contracted production in March, as expected. Also concerning, prices paid in the ISM index have now increased for six months and are accelerating, while new orders have collapsed. No wonder gold is at record highs. Here at Barrow Hanley, we do not think we are entering a long-term stagflationary period.

INVESTMENT CONSULTANT – Mariner Institutional

A flash report for March 31, 2025, prepared by Mr. Vavrica showed the fiscal year return valued at -2.4%.

ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT

Warrants approved since the last meeting were presented to the Board in spreadsheet format by Mr. D. Williams. A formal administrative report was also provided for consideration. After Mr. D. Williams detailed the report, Mr. Marchese made the motion to approve, which was seconded by Mr. Ahern. All Trustees voted yes, and the motion was passed 4-0.

OPEN DISCUSSION

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Being there was no other business; the meeting was adjourned by motion at 10:00 AM

Next meeting is scheduled for May 09, 2025, at 8:30 AM.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. Marchese', is written over a light gray rectangular background.

Troy Marchese, Board Secretary