

Minutes of the Chicopee Retirement Board monthly meeting held on January 25, 2023 at 8:45 a.m. in the Auditors Conference Room, 3rd floor, City Hall.

Present: Members: Ference, Mailhott, Boronski, Riley & O'Shea

The Chairman called the Regular Meeting to Order at 8:45 a.m.

A motion was made by Mr. Ference and seconded by Ms. Riley to accept and approve the Regular Meeting minutes and the Executive Session minutes from December 14, 2022. The minutes will be placed on file. ALL IN FAVOR.

A motion was made by Ms. Boroski and seconded by Mr. Mailhott to approve the monthly expense warrants # 01252023, #01262023 and payroll warrant #12302022. ALL IN FAVOR.

Executive Session:

A motion was made by Ms. Boronski and seconded by Mr. Ference to enter into Executive Session at 8:46 a.m. as per M.G.L. Chapter 30A Section 21 for the purpose of discussing two Accidental Disability Applications and a Medical Panel Review. A roll call vote was taken: Mr. Ference "yes", Mr. Mailhott "yes", Ms. Boronski "yes", Ms. Riley "yes" and Mr. O'Shea "yes".

The Board will then reconvene in open session once this meeting is concluded.

Executive session concluded at 8:50 a.m.

The following individual applied for an Accidental Disability Retirement according to statute: (Medical Panel Review)

Dymek, David – Chicopee Housing Authority – Maintenance Operations Manager – filed for an Accidental Disability Retirement due to an injury he sustained in September of 2020. The Board received the Medical Panel Certificate back and all three doctors answered in the affirmative on all three questions.

A motion was made by Ms. Boronski and seconded by Mr. Ference to approve the above-mentioned application and Medical Panel findings and to submit the necessary paperwork to PERAC for their final review. ALL IN FAVOR.

(the Board will be notified when they need to sign in to PROSPER to state how they voted on this application.)

Executive Session:

A motion was made by Ms. Boronski and seconded by Mr. Ference to enter back into

Executive Session at 8:51 a.m. as per M.G.L. Chapter 30A Section 21 for the purpose of discussing two Accidental Disability Applications. A roll call vote was taken: Mr. Ference “yes”, Mr. Mailhott “yes”, Ms. Boronski “yes”, Ms. Riley “yes” and Mr. O’Shea “yes”.

The Board will then reconvene in open session once this meeting is concluded.

The Chairman reconvened the regular meeting at 9:13 a.m.

The following Accidental Disability Retirement applications were received according to statute:

Sousa, Jeffrey – Police Department – Officer/SRT (special response team) – filed an Accidental Disability Retirement Application due to long term effects from COVID 19. The Board needs to vote on whether or not they wish to send this application to PERAC for a medical panel review.

A motion was made by Ms. Boronski and seconded by Mr. Ference to table this accidental disability application until we receive an opinion letter from Attorney Sacco. ALL IN FAVOR.

Mailhott, Michael – Police Department – Officer – filed an Accidental/Ordinary Disability Retirement Application due to PTSD. The Board needs to vote on whether or not they wish to send this application to PERAC for a medical panel review.

A motion was made by Mr. Ference and seconded by Ms. Boronski to table this accidental/ordinary disability application until they receive an opinion letter from Attorney Sacco. (Member Mailhott abstained from voting on this application). ALL IN FAVOR.

PERAC Memo #4/2023 - COLA Update Social Security Administration has announced that the latest Cost of Living Adjustment is 8.7%. The COLA which may be granted, pursuant to Chapter 32, Section 103 (c) and effective July 1, 2023 will be 3.0%.

After a discussion a motion was made by Mr. Ference and seconded by Ms. Boronski to hold a special public meeting on March 22, 2023 prior to the regular scheduled meeting to vote on granting a COLA increase effective July 1, 2023. The Director will inform the Mayor and the City Council of this meeting. ALL IN FAVOR.

Staff Update – Christine Chieklowski started as the new Administrative Assistant as of December 19, 2022 in the Retirement Board office.. She was in attendance at the Board meeting today to meet all the Board members.

Anna Maria Hamblin gave the Board her letter of resignation effective May 31, 2023. Ms.

Hamblin will be retiring as of that date.

A motion was made by Ms. Boronski and seconded by Mr. Ference to advertise this position on the PERAC website in order to hold interviews and have the new Executive Director in place when Ms. Hamblin retires. ALL IN FAVOR.

The following people applied for membership in the system according to statute:

1. Jessica Fersch – School – Group #1
2. Christine M. Chicklowski – Retirement – Group #1
3. Tauheedah Mu-min – School – Group #1
4. David W. Rice – Dept Head City Hall – Group # 1
5. Linda M. McCarthy – School – Group #1
6. Katherine Wagner- School – Group #1
7. Ady Rodriguez – Housing – Group #1
8. Beatriz Cruz – Housing – Group # 1
9. Patrick Collins – Planning – Group # 1
10. Jillian Beach – School – Group # 1
11. Tanner Demers – School – Group # 1
12. Pampha Lama – School Group # 1
13. Jonathan LeBlanc – School – Group # 1
14. Maria Fernanda Garcia Herrera – School – Group # 1
15. Lily Cushing- School – Group # 1
16. Joshua Merrill – Housing – Group # 1
17. Kayla Harris – School - Group # 1
18. Joshua Ortiz – School – Group # 1
19. Debra M Pelletier – School – Group # 1
20. Tyler Hubbard – CEL – Group # 1

A motion was made by Ms. Riley and seconded by Mr. Ference to approve the above-mentioned individuals for membership into the System: ALL IN FAVOR.

The following retirement applications has been submitted to the Board according to statute:

Beaugard, David D., - Chicopee Fire Department -Deputy Chief – wishes to retire on January 3, 2023 with 32 years of service (including Veterans Buy Back).

A motion was made by Mr. Ference and seconded by Mr. Mailhott to approve the above mentioned application. ALL IN FAVOR.

The following refunds have been prepared for the Board’s approval according to statute:

Page, Jesse E. – Chicopee Housing Authority – Mechanic Aide – resigned on November 18, 2022 – total refund \$4,367.71.

Schryver, David M. - School Department – School Committee Member – resigned on December 31, 2021 – total refund \$2,072.60.

Keppler, Catherine – Library – Reference Librarian – resigned October 5, 2012 – total refund \$3,214.52.

A motion was made by Ms. Boronski and seconded by Ms. Riley to approve the above mentioned refunds. ALL IN FAVOR.

The following transfers have been prepared for the Board's approval according to statute:

Cates, Ricky L., - School Department – Assistant Teacher – transferred to Massachusetts Teachers Retirement System – total transfer \$51,388.13.

Foley, Taylor M. – School Department – Paraprofessional – transferred to Massachusetts Teachers Retirement System – total transfer \$9,611.93.

Hidalgo, Lesliann – Chicopee Housing Authority – Receptionist – transferred to State Board of Retirement – total transfer \$2,451.79.

Scott, Jo-Ann M. – School Department – Senior Clerk/Typist – transferred to Hampden County Regional Retirement System – total transfer \$6,417.92.

A motion was made by Mr. Ference and seconded by Mr. Mailhott to approve the above mentioned transfers. ALL IN FAVOR.

The following Option C Pop-Up and Survivor Benefits have been prepared for the Board's approval according to statute:

Daniele, Carmino R – Assessor's Office – retired June 30, 2010 under Superannuation Option C – his beneficiary – passed away on September 15, 2022, therefore he is eligible for the Option C Pop Up – he will now receive an Option A benefit.

MacDonald, Barbara – retired from Chicopee School Department on January 15, 1989, under Superannuation Option C – with 35 years and 10 months of creditable service. She passed away on November 14, 2022 – her son – who is her beneficiary – will now receive her option C survivor benefits.

A motion was made by Mr. Mailhott and seconded by Ms. Boronski to approve the above-mentioned Pop Up and Survivor Benefits. ALL IN FAVOR.

The following Superannuation Calculations were prepared for the Board's approval according to statute:

Alvarado, Maria – School Department – Paraprofessional – retired December 22, 2022 – yearly pension \$17,714.64.

Beauregard, David – Fire Department – Deputy Chief – retired January 3, 2023 – yearly pension \$78,569.28.

Burnham, Shawn – Electric Light – Repairman/Maintenance Man – retired January 6, 2023 – yearly pension \$58,365.48.

Hamelin, Tracy – School Department – Paraprofessional – retired January 3, 2023 – yearly pension \$8,690.04.

Lazarz, Laretta – School Department – Paraprofessional – retired December 23, 2022 – yearly pension \$16,656.00.

A motion was made by Ms. Riley and seconded by Mr. Ference to approve these recalculations. ALL IN FAVOR.

Part time Service – we have discovered a few individuals that were made members of our system in the early 1990's that were part time – we do not have a Regulation for this – so at this time the Board has to decide if their service should be considered creditable service when calculating their retirement. In the absence of a Regulation the Board can grant full time service for this error on these individuals only. (Our regulations state that a full time member who becomes part time shall have their service credited as full time, but we have nothing in place if it was part time and then went to full time.)

A motion was made by Ms. Boronski and seconded by Ms. Riley to accept the service for the above individuals as they were accepted in error and also have a regulation made up for the next Board meeting regarding the part time issue. ALL IN FAVOR.

Mileage for 2023 - Beginning January 1, 2023 the standard mileage rates for the use of a car will be 65.5 cents per mile for business use. This is up 3 cents from the July 1, 2022 rate.

Comprehensive Medical Evaluations - The Board received notice from PERAC that the retirees were evaluated for possible return to service under M.G.L. Chapter 32, Section 8. At

this time, the retirees are unable to perform the duties of the job, but may be subject to future evaluations. No Board action is necessary at this time

Upcoming Board Meetings for Calendar Year 2023-

**February 27th, March 22nd, **April 26th, **May 24th, June 28th, July 26th, ** August 23rd, September 27th, **October 25th, **November 15th, and December 20th.

All meetings are subject to change.

** denotes when an Investment Company will be in attendance

REPORTS AND NOTICES:


Checking Account Statements -- December 2022

Cash Book -- November 2022


PERAC – Memo 33/2022 – Mandatory Training for 1st quarter of 2023 for Board Members

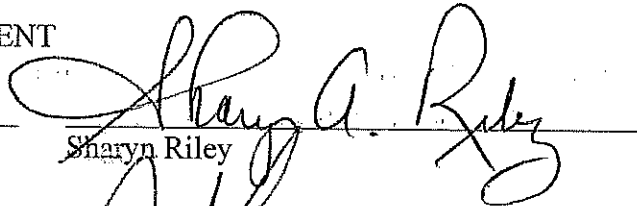
PERAC – Pension News #61


A motion was made by Mr. Ference and seconded by Mr. Mailhott to adjourn the meeting at 10:00 a.m. ALL IN FAVOR.



Anna Maria Hamblin, Executive Director

APPROVED: BOARD OF RETIREMENT


Timothy O. O'Shea


Sharyn Riley


Paul Mailhott


David Ference


Debra Boronski