

Minutes of the Chicopee Retirement Board monthly meeting held on April 26, 2023 at 8:30 a.m. in the Auditors Conference Room, 3rd floor, City Hall.

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

Staff Present: Ana Gomes, Anna Maria Hamblin

Also Present: Attorney Collins, Jeffrey Sousa, Attorney Goldstein, Laura Strickland

The Chairman called the Regular Meeting to Order at 8:32 a.m.

A motion was made by Mr. Mailhott and seconded by Mr. Ference to accept and approve the Regular Meeting minutes and the Special Meeting Minutes from March 22, 2023. The minutes will be placed on file. ALL IN FAVOR.

A motion was made by Ms. Riley and seconded by Ms. Boronski to approve the monthly expense warrants #04262023, 04272023 and payroll warrant 03312023. ALL IN FAVOR.

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

1. Derek Gaudette – Housing – Group # 1
2. Jesse Z Warren – School – Group # 1
3. Isaiah Williams – School – Group # 1
4. Carla M Paquette – School – Group # 1
5. Jacqueline C Otero - Housing – Group # 1
6. Kelsey Lacoste – School – Group #1
7. Franci Reyes – School – Group #1
8. Toni Scibelli – School – Group # 1
9. Monica Torres – Mayors Office – Group # 1
10. Matthew Donaldson – Fire – Group # 4
11. Garrett Dort – Fire – Group # 4
12. Alec Duarte – Fire – Group # 4
13. Alec Harwood – Fire – Group # 4
14. Nathaniel Lepage – Fire – Group # 4
15. Nicholas Mayo – Fire – Group # 4
16. Andrew Piquette – Fire – group # 4
17. Michael Ponce – Ffire – Group # 4
18. Roberto Saunas – Fire – Group # 4
19. Hunter LaRochelle – Fire – Group # 4
20. Kevin A Rosa – Police – Group # 4
21. Stephen S Kloc IV – Parks – Group # 1
22. Jeffery Flowers – Sanitation – Group # 1
23. Nicholas P Wosko – COA – Group # 1
24. Karen A Gay – Human Resources – Group #1
25. Laurie Mancini – School – Group # 1
26. Rodney B Candelaria – Police – Group # 4

27. Kelley W Murphy – COA – Group #1

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

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

Moriarty, Marshall – Law Department – City Solicitor – wishes to retire on March 31, 2023 with 14 years and 4 months of creditable service.

Hartbarger, Linda – School Department - Lunch – Cook/Manager – wishes to retire on June 22, 2023 with 36 years and 8 months of creditable service.

O’Leary, Cindy – School Department – Paraprofessional – wishes to retire on June 23, 2023 with 24 years and 5 months of creditable service.

Maciolek, Elizabeth – School Department – Paraprofessional – wishes to retire on July 27, 2023 with 18 years and 1 month of creditable service.

DeMaio, Ralph – DPW Sanitation – Laborer – wishes to retire on May 19, 2023 with 16 years and 9 months of creditable service.

A motion was made by Mr. Ference and seconded by Mr. Mailhott to approve the above mentioned applications. ALL IN FAVOR. (Ms. Riley abstained from voting on Mr. DeMaio’s retirement application.)

The following refunds were prepared for the Board according to statute:

Beatriz Cruz, Project Clerk, Chicopee Housing Authority terminated February 27, 2023 refund \$426.13

Thomas D. Lee, Pump Station Operator, Wastewater Department resigned February 6, 2023 Refund \$8,146.41

Duaa S. Saedi, Paraprofessional, School Department resigned June 22, 2018 refund \$5,592.26

Donna M. Sittard, Mayoral Aide, Mayor’s Department terminated January 6, 2014 refund \$4,000.37

Jerry Render, Sanitation/Recycling employee – passed away March 10, 2023 total refund \$29,006.27 to his beneficiary.

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

The following transfers were prepared for the Board according to statute:

Melissa P. Stranger, Assistant Teacher, School Department transferred to Massachusetts Teachers Retirement System - \$4,419.50

Jerry Ago, 1st Class Lineman, Chicopee Electric Light transferred to Shrewsbury Contributory Retirement - \$61,361.98

William G. Burke, Assistant Chief Operator, Wastewater Department transferred to Dukes County Contributory Retirement System - \$757.47

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

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

Patricia Coleman, Senior Clerk, School Department retired February 23, 2023 yearly pension \$30,083.76

George Gaouette, Assistant Teacher, School Department retired March 31, 2023 yearly pension \$16,689.72

Jeannine Goff, Clerk, Parks Department retired March 24, 2023 yearly pension \$24,472.80

Daniel McQuade, Firefighter, Fire Department retired March 17, 2023 yearly pension \$51,119.40

Marshall Moriarty, City Solicitor, Law Department retired March 31, 2023 yearly pension \$17,792.64

Arthur Potter, III, Working General Foreman, Electric Light Department retired April 16, 2023 yearly pension \$99,021.96

Maureen Van Buren, Payroll, Electric Light Department retired February 24, 2023 yearly pension \$26,741.28

Thomas Wytrych, Meter Reader, Water Department retired March 3, 2023 yearly pension 34,599.60

A motion was made by Ms. Boronski and seconded by Mr. Mailhot to approve the above mentioned Calculations. ALL IN FAVOR.

PERAC Memo #10/2023 – Retirement Board Training for the 2nd quarter. In this packet you have a copy of the memo with a list of all educational trainings that are available. This memo tells you exactly how to register for each training and how to submit your training affidavits through Prosper in order to get the proper credit for the ones that you take. Remember everyone needs at least 18 credits in a three year term – and must earn at least 3 credits per year.

Open Meeting Law - Governor Healey signed into law the supplemental budget, which among other things extends the temporary provisions pertaining to the Open Meeting Law. This further extension allows Boards to continue holding meetings remotely without a quorum of the public body physically being present at a meeting location. The new expiration date is March 31, 2025.

Staff Update – Chairman O’Shea, Board Member Riley and Anna Maria Hamblin interviewed four (4) candidates that applied for the Executive Director position. After the interviews they had a discussion and Ana Gomes was offered the position of Executive Director effective June 1, 2023.

Emerging Issue Forum – this year’s Emerging Issue Forum hosted by PERAC will be Thursday, September 21, 2023. Please let the Retirement Board staff know if you are interested in attending.

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.

Summer of 2023 – A copy of the Summer 2023 newsletter is included in this packet.

2023 Affidavits – this year’s annual affidavits will be mailed out to all retirees and survivors on May 8, 2023. They are due back in our office by August 31, 2023.

PRIM – Laura Strickland, Senior Client Service Operator was in attendance at today’s meeting to review year 2022. In everyone’s packet is a booklet with a recap of 2022. 2022 was not a good year, the first three quarters were down, but the fourth quarter was up 4%. Market Value for the end of 2022 was \$76,438,925. The Board thanked Ms. Strickland for her time and for the update. They look forward to meeting with her again in October.

Executive Session:

A motion was made by Ms. Boronski and seconded by Mr. Mailhott to enter into Executive Session at 9:02 a.m. as per M.G.L. Chapter 30A Section 21 for the purpose of holding a hearing on an Accidental Disability Application. A roll call vote waws 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 following Accidental Disability Application was prepared for the Board according to statute:

Sousa, Jeffrey – Chicopee Police Department – Officer/SRT – filed an Accidental Disability Application due to long lasting effects from COVID 19.

A motion was made by Ms. Boronski and seconded by Ms. Riley to table this application until further information is provided to the Board. ALL IN FAVOR.

Executive session concluded at 9:55 a.m.

The Chairman called the regular meeting back in session at 9:57 a.m.

Board Member Mailhott left the meeting at 9:55 a.m.

Special Police Officers – In the late 1980’s and early 1990’s there are several Police Officers that were hired as “Special Police Officers” in the City of Chicopee, prior to them being appointed full time Police Officers under Civil Service. At this time, they are requesting to buyback this time when they were excluded from being a member of our System as they were not considered full time employees. An opinion letter from Attorney Sacco is included in your packets. The Board needs to decide if they are going to allow them to buy this time back according to MGL Chapter 32, section 4 (2) (c) or section 4 (2) (b).

They are not allowed to buy back the time according to Section 4 (2)(c) as they are not considered as they are considered “special” police not intermittent or reserve police.

Under Section 4 (2)(b) they are allowed to buy this time. Once we receive all of the correct information from these Officers showing us the time they worked, the amount of money they earned, certification on their actual appointment dates, proof of firearms, etc. then we will calculate the exact time in which they can buy back.

Attorney Sacco’s office will provide us with a template letter that we can use with this information and we will just insert the time allowed to purchase. We will also provide them with their appeal rights if they do not agree with us.

A motion was made by Ms. Boronski and seconded by Mr. Ference to wait for the template from Attorney Sacco and then the staff will process the necessary information. ALL IN FAVOR.

A motion was made by Ms. Boronski and seconded by Mr. Mailhott to re- enter into Executive Session at 10:12 a.m. as per M.G.L. Chapter 30A Section 21 for the purpose of holding a hearing on a Medical Panel Review. A roll call vote waws taken: Mr. Ference “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 10:18 a.m.

The Chairman called the regular meeting back in session at 10:20 a.m.

The following Accidental Disability Application was reviewed by the Medical panel for the Board according to statue:

Santos, Hector – Chicopee Housing Authority – Maintenance Aide/Worker – applied for an accidental disability retirement due to an injury he sustained while working on the job. The three member medical panel answered in the affirmative to all of the questions and stated that he is physically unable to perform the duties of his job and the said incapacity is likely to be permanent. It is also their opinion that said incapacity is such as might be the natural and proximate result of his injury sustained on the job.

A motion was made by Ms. Boronski and seconded by Mr. Ference to submit all the necessary papers to PERAC for their approval. ALL IN FAVOR. (the board members will be notified when they need to log into PROSPER to for their vote).

Upcoming Board Meetings for Calendar Year 2023–

****May 22nd, 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:

PERAC Pension News No. 62

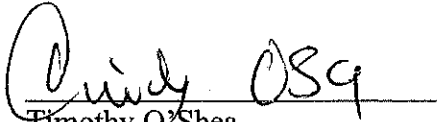
A motion was made by Ms. Boronski and seconded by Mr. Ference to adjourn the meeting at 10:25 a.m. ALL IN FAVOR.

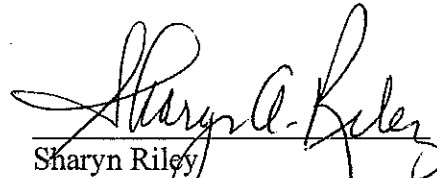
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Anna Maria Hamblin, Executive Director


APPROVED: BOARD OF RETIREMENT


Timothy O'Shea


Sharyn Riley


Paul Mailhott


David Ference


Debra Boronski