

Minutes of the meeting held on December 4, 2023

Present: Francis Murphy – Chair, Michael Gardner, Joseph McCann, James Monagle, Ellen Philbin, James Quirk, and Chris Burns.

Arrived Late: Nadia Chamblin-Foster (Not present for agenda items 1, 2 and 3.)

The meeting was called to order at 11:04 AM. The meeting was digitally recorded. This was a hybrid meeting, held in-person in the Sheila Tobin Conference Room at 125 CambridgePark Drive, with some participants joining via Zoom videoconference.

Agenda Item #1 – Minutes

Motion by Monagle, seconded by McCann to accept the minutes of the investment manager interviews held on October 26, 2023. The motion carried on a 4-0 vote with Chamblin-Foster absent.

Motion by McCann, seconded by Monagle to accept the regular minutes of the meeting held on November 6, 2023. The motion carried on a 4-0 vote with Chamblin-Foster absent.

Agenda Item #2 - Warrants

Motion by McCann, seconded by Gardner to accept payment of Warrant #22 in the amount of \$9,367,546.26 and Warrant #23 in the amount of \$2,173,351.64. The motion carried on a 4-0 vote with Chamblin-Foster absent.

Agenda Item #3 – Superannuations

Motion by Monagle, seconded by Gardner to accept the Superannuation retirement applications submitted by John Blouin, Cross Connection Supervisor, Water Dept. with twenty-nine years, one month; William Greg Fisher, Support Tech Specialist II, Information Technology Dept. with forty-one years, two months; Amanda Gazin, Senior Librarian, with twenty-eight years, two months; Sean Mahoney, Laborer, Housing Authority with fifteen years, five months; Christiana Malgwi, Float Aide II, Cambridge Health Alliance with nineteen years, nine months; Robert J. Medeiros Jr., Custodian, School Dept. with thirty-six years; Maria Medina, Pre-School Teacher, Dept. of Human Services with twenty-three years, two months; Brenda Moschella, Senior Account Clerk, Auditing Dept. with eighteen years, seven months; Sergio Pace, HVAC Helper, School Dept. with thirty-two years; Steven Smith, Chief Information Officer, School Dept. with sixteen years, four months; and Gerda St. Fort, Pediatric RN, Cambridge Health Alliance with twenty-one years, eleven months. The motion carried on a 4-0 vote with Chamblin-Foster absent.

Agenda Item #4 - Make-ups/Redeposits/Liability

The Board reviewed make-up and redeposit worksheets for two members.

Motion by Chamblin-Foster, seconded by Monagle to allow the make-up of deductions for Jacqueline M. Mercer, five years; and Margarete Pierre, two years, five months. Voted unanimously.

Agenda Item #5 – Refund Applications

The Board reviewed a list of refund applications submitted in November.

Motion by Gardner, seconded by Monagle to accept three refund applications. Voted unanimously.

The Chairman requested to adjourn the open meeting and go into executive session for the purpose of discussing disability retirement applications. The Chairman stated that the meeting would reconvene in open session the conclusion of the executive session. On a roll call, the vote was as follows:

James Monagle: YES
Michael Gardner: YES
Joseph McCann: YES
Francis Murphy: YES
Nadia Chamblin-Foster: YES

Agenda Item #6 – Accidental Disability Application – Pauline Adams-Kelsey

The Board reviewed the member’s application, treating physician’s statement and employer’s statement filed in connection with Pauline Adams-Kelsey’s application for Accidental Disability benefits. Attorney Michael Akashian appeared, representing Ms. Adams-Kelsey.

Motion by Gardner, seconded by Monagle to accept the application for Accidental Disability benefits filed by Pauline Adams-Kelsey, Operations Assistant in the Public Works Dept. and to request that PERAC convene a medical panel. Voted unanimously.

Agenda Item #7 – Accidental Disability Application – Paul W. Gallagher

The Board reviewed the member’s application, treating physician’s statement and employer’s statement filed in connection with Paul W. Gallagher’s application for Accidental Disability benefits.

Motion by Gardner, seconded by Monagle to accept the Accidental Disability application filed by Paul W. Gallagher, a Firefighter, and to request that PERAC convene a medical panel. Voted unanimously.

Agenda Item #8 – Accidental Disability Application – Craig Yearwood

The Board reviewed the member’s application, treating physician’s statement and employer’s statement filed in connection with Craig Yearwood application for Accidental Disability benefits.

Motion by Monagle, seconded by Chamblin-Foster to accept the Accidental Disability application filed by Craig Yearwood, a Firefighter, and to request that PERAC convene a medical panel. Voted unanimously.

Agenda Item #9 – Accidental Disability Benefit – Herbert Stern

The Board reviewed the certificates and narrative reports of three separate medical exams, the member’s application, treating physician’s statement and employer’s statement filed in connection with Herbert Stern’s application for Accidental Disability benefits. Attorney Thomas Gibson appeared, representing Herbert Stern.

Motion by Monagle, seconded by McCann to accept the findings of the medical panel and grant Accidental Disability benefits to Herbert Stern, Working Supervisor in the Dept. of Public Works. Voted unanimously.

Agenda Item #10 – Accidental Death Benefit – Michael Clinton

The Board reviewed Michael Clinton’s death certificate, correspondence from his treating physician and the certificates and narrative reports of his 2020 medical panel.

Motion by Monagle, seconded by Chamblin-Foster to grant Accidental Death benefits to Melinda Camara Clinton, surviving spouse of Michael Clinton, a retired Fire Lieutenant. Voted unanimously.

Agenda Item #11 – 91A Overearning – James Desrosiers

The Board reviewed correspondence from PERAC describing James Desrosiers’ overearnings in 2021 and 2022 and a draft repayment agreement. Gerry McDonough and Thomas Gibson appeared, representing James Desrosiers.

McDonough stated that he and Quirk have negotiated an agreement. Desrosiers is prepared to repay the entire amount owed for 2021 and 2022 immediately. He is also likely to have significant overearnings in 2023, although the exact amount will not be calculated until he files his tax return, and they are reviewed by PERAC. Once that amount is determined, Desrosiers will negotiate a repayment schedule, with the intention of repaying everything before the end of 2024. Mr. Desrosiers will waive his pension payments for calendar year 2024, with the exception of the amount required to maintain his health insurance deduction.

Monagle thanked Quirk and McDonough for their work in drafting the agreement, and said he felt that they had reached a fair resolution of the overearnings. Monagle moved to accept the agreement as written. McCann seconded the motion and it was voted unanimously.

Agenda Item #12 – Appointment of Fifth Board Member

The Board reviewed resumes from six applicants for the Fifth Member seat on the Retirement Board.

Burns reviewed the timetable for making an appointment. He noted that Nadia Chamblin-Foster's current term will expire on January 1. He suggested that it would be tidier if the Board could vote on the appointment prior to the expiration date. He also suggested that if the Board wishes to schedule interviews, a special meeting should be scheduled before the end of the year. If the Board is unable to agree on an appointment within thirty days after the end of the term, the City Manager would be authorized to make the appointment himself.

The Chairman stated that he would favor interviewing the applicants who have a strong background in Massachusetts retirement systems. He proposed inviting Nadia Chamblin-Foster, Joseph Connarton and Edward Spellman to interview before the full Board. The other three applicants do not have any prior experience with Chapter 32. Monagle stated that he was prepared to make himself available and that he hoped the Board could vote on the matter immediately after the interviews are concluded. The Chairman requested that all three applicants appear in person for their interviews.

Motion by Monagle, seconded by McCann to invite Nadia Chamblin-Foster, Joseph Connarton and Edward Spellman to interview before the Board. The motion carried on a 4-0 vote with Chamblin-Foster abstaining. The Chairman requested that the Director coordinate with the Board and candidates to find a workable time for the interviews.

Agenda Item #13 – PERAC Memos

The Board reviewed PERAC memo 26. No action was taken.

Agenda Item #14 - Old Business

Not needed.

Agenda Item #15 – New Business

Monagle stated that he has received numerous complaints from retirees that they have been unable to get information from the city's Human Resources office about health insurance. During the recent open enrollment period, a number of people complained that their calls were not returned and they were unable to make an informed choice about different health insurance plans. Monagle proposed that the Retirement System should hire an employee to assist retirees, by acting as an ombudsman and getting timely answers from the City. The Director stated that the City recently posted two job openings in the Benefits Department. She stated that she was concerned that it would be difficult for a Retirement System employee to usefully assist since health benefits are ultimately managed by the City. In the past, the City has declined the Retirement System's offers to assist by running audits, which might help to identify when a retiree is on the wrong health plan. The Chairman stated that he liked Monagle's idea but did not think it would work because the bottleneck is at City Hall. Monagle suggested that the Board may wish to invite the City Manager to a meeting, to make him aware of the problems in the

Human Resources office. The Director stated that the Manager is certainly aware of the issue, since many retirees have called his office to complain, and will copy him on emails to Human Resources.

The Chairman stated that Medicare has announced their rates for 2024. He noted that the City is still requiring each retiree to provide written documentation of their payment before they will adjust the reimbursement.

Agenda Item #16 – Executive Session

Agenda Item #6 – adopted

Agenda Item #7 – adopted

Agenda Item #8 – adopted

Agenda Item #9 – adopted

Agenda Item #10 – adopted

Agenda Item #11 – adopted

Agenda Item #17 - Chairman's Report

The Chairman stated that he would likely attend January, February and March meetings remotely.

Agenda Item #18 – Executive Director's Report

The Director stated that PTG recently released some enhancements which have increased the speed of the system.

The following documents were also reviewed by the Board:

- Notice of Retiree Deaths
- Bernstein Litowitz Berger & Grossman, Q3 2023 Report
- September Financials: General Ledger, Summary of Accounts, Trial Balance, Adjustments, Cash Disbursements, Cash Receipts, Wire Transfers, Bank Reconciliation.

Monagle moved to adjourn at 1:00 PM.