

Minutes of the meeting held on February 1, 2021

Present: Francis Murphy – Chair, James Monagle, Michael Gardner, Nadia Chamblin-Foster, John Shinkwin, Ellen Philbin, James Quirk, Chris Burns and Tom Gibson.

The meeting was called to order at 1:01 PM. The meeting was digitally recorded. The entire meeting was conducted by Webex videoconference.

Agenda Item #1 – Minutes

Motion by Chamblin-Foster, seconded by Shinkwin to accept the minutes of the meeting held on January 4, 2021. Voted unanimously.

Motion by Chamblin-Foster, seconded by Shinkwin to accept the executive session minutes of the meeting held on December 7, 2020. Voted unanimously.

Agenda Item #2 - Warrants

Motion by Chamblin-Foster, seconded by Gardner to accept payment of warrant #2 in the amount of \$7,777,402.40 and to accept payment of warrant #3 in the amount of \$625,637.28. Voted unanimously.

Agenda Item #3 – Superannuations

Motion by Shinkwin, seconded by Gardner to accept the Superannuation retirement applications submitted by Betsy Abrams, Family Services Coordinator, Dept. of Human Services with ten years, nine months; Paul Bentubo, Patrol Officer, Police Dept. with thirty-one years, ten months; Brian Branley, Detective, Police Dept. with thirty-one years, eleven months; Joseph DeSimone, Sergeant, Police Dept. with thirty-three years, three months; Mark Donohue, Patrol Officer, Police Dept. with thirty-one years, eleven months; Linda Lopresti, Application Analyst I, Cambridge Health Alliance with twenty-two years, five months; Robert Morrissey, Captain, Fire Dept. with thirty-eight years, seven months; Sean Peterson, Sergeant, Police Dept. with thirty years; Shirley Sanford, Executive Assistant, Housing Authority with thirty years, two months; Mary Schaffner, A/P Clerk, School Dept. with twenty-four years, three months; Paul Sheehan, Assistant Chief, Fire Dept. with thirty-two years, ten months; Nancy Vargas, Administrative Assistant, Electrical Dept. with thirty years. Voted unanimously.

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

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

Motion by Gardner, seconded by Shinkwin to allow the make-up of deductions requested by Frederick J. Cabral, 10 months; Elizabeth A. Davis, 4 months; Robin A. Hayes, 8 months; Robin A. Hayes, 3 years, 1 month; Francisca Rodrigues Pires, 6 months; Malika Saquil, 3 years, 7 months; Kimiko M. Wittkopp, 1 year, 4 months; and Adrianna M. Yancey, 6 months. Voted unanimously.

Agenda Item #5 – Refund Applications

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

Motion by Gardner, seconded by Monagle to accept nine 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:

Michael Gardner:	YES
Nadia Chamblin-Foster	YES

James Monagle: YES
John Shinkwin: YES
Francis Murphy: YES

Agenda Item #6 – Accidental Disability Benefit – Kevin Trant

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 Kevin Trant's Accidental Disability application. Attorney Thomas Gibson appeared, representing the member.

Shinkwin moved to accept the findings of the medical panel and grant Accidental Disability benefits to Kevin Trant, a Laborer in the Dept. of Public Works. Monagle seconded the motion and it was voted unanimously.

Agenda Item #7 – Survivor Benefit – Kerry Ravanis

The Board reviewed an affidavit filed by the surviving spouse and James Ravanis' death certificate. Attorney Thomas Gibson appeared, representing Kerry Ravanis.

The Director stated that the present application is for 12-2-d benefits. The member died on December 28, 2020. The application appears to be in good order. Gibson stated that it was his intention to assist Mrs. Ravanis in filing an application for Accidental Death benefits. He requested that the Board approve the survivor benefit so that Mrs. Ravanis can receive payments while her Accidental Death application is being developed.

Motion by Monagle seconded by Chamblin-Foster to grant survivor benefits to Kerry Ravanis, surviving spouse of James Ravanis, a custodian in the School Dept. Voted unanimously.

Agenda Item #8 – PERAC Memos

The Board reviewed PERAC Memos, #39/2020 through #8/2021 .

The Director noted that Memo #4 discusses the process of granting a COLA for 2021. The social security COLA was 1.3% for 2021. The Board may grant up to a 3% COLA, after giving appropriate notice to the City Council. The Chairman requested that the Director prepare the notice and place the matter on the agenda for the April meeting.

Agenda Item #9 - Old Business

Burns reported he has not heard from Robert Elliott's attorney, as to whether he would object to the Board proceeding with an Ordinary Disability application for his client.

Agenda Item #10 - New Business

Not needed.

Agenda Item #11 - Executive Session

Agenda Item #6 – adopted

Agenda Item #7 – adopted

Agenda Item #12 - Chairman's Report

The Chairman reported that he was able to visit with Brad Tenney on a recent trip through Georgia.

Agenda Item #13 – Executive Director's Report

The Director stated all 1099R forms and Group 4 health deduction letters were mailed in January.

The Director reported that the system had 106 retiree deaths in 2020. The system had 72 deaths in 2019. While only ten of the death certificates specifically list COVID as the cause of death, there are a number of others that list pneumonia. The Director also stated that many of the survivors of the deceased retirees have told her that they believe their relatives died of COVID.

Chamblin-Foster asked if the Retirement System could take any role in assisting retirees to receive vaccinations. Monagle stated that the State has kept a tight control over distribution of vaccines, and the City has been referring questions to the State. He also noted that the Cambridge Health Alliance has not been designated as a vaccination center. The Chairman also noted that, although the Cambridge Fire Department assisted in running a successful testing center during the summer, they have not been asked to participate in vaccinations.

The following documents were also reviewed by the Board:

- Notice of Retiree Deaths
- Lazard Portfolio Review – December 2020
- Segal Marco Manager Alert – Loomis Sayles

Monagle moved to adjourn at 1:55 PM.