Minutes of the meeting held on June 7, 2021

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

Left Early: Nadia Chamblin-Foster (Not present for agenda items 7 and 9-18)

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 PM. The meeting was digitally recorded. The entire meeting was conducted by Webex videoconference.

Agenda Item #1 – Minutes
Motion by Chamblin-Foster, seconded by Monagle to accept the minutes of the meeting held on May 3, 2021. Voted unanimously.
Motion by Monagle, seconded by Shinkwin to accept the executive session minutes of the meeting held on May 3, 2021. Voted unanimously.

Agenda Item #2 - Warrants
Motion by Shinkwin, seconded by Monagle to accept payment of warrant #10 in the amount of $8,275,035.34 and to accept payment of warrant #11 in the amount of $1,571,632.22. Voted unanimously. Gardner requested that the Director provide an explanation of how the IFM fee is calculated.

Agenda Item #3 – Superannuations
Motion by Chamblin-Foster, seconded by Shinkwin to accept the Superannuation retirement applications submitted by Laura Baltzell, Clinical Social Worker, Cambridge Health Alliance with eighteen years, six months; Dosha Beard, Executive Secretary, School Department with thirty-six years, eight months; Brian Casey, Lieutenant, Fire Department with thirty-four years; Kevin Donofrio, Patrol Officer, Police Department with thirty-three years; Alan Epstein, Project Manager, School Department with twenty years, six months; Esther Flores, Cashier/Teacher Aide, School Department with seventeen years, eight months; Juan Galindo, Street Cleaning Supervisor, Public Works with nineteen years, two months; Michael Grover, Acting Senior Building Inspector, Inspectional Services with twenty-four years, two months; Yvette Jones, Patient Access Rep I, Cambridge Health Alliance with thirty-two years, six months; Marcia Lidman, Senior Director of Organizational Development, Cambridge Health Alliance with thirty-two years, six months; Paul Magliozzi, Custodian, School Department with twenty-three years seven months; Mark McHale, Sergeant, Police Department with thirty-one years, ten months; Francis Mullen, Firefighter with thirty-six years, three months; Elizaneth Vellucci-Tomczak, Executive Assistant II, Cambridge Health Alliance with thirty years, nine months; and Lorraine Vendetti, Patient Relations Manager, Cambridge Health Alliance with forty-two years, three months. Voted unanimously.

Agenda Item #4 - Make-ups/Redeposits/Liability
The Board reviewed make-up and redeposit worksheets for three members.
Motion by Gardner, seconded by Shinkwin to allow the make-up of deductions requested by Joanly Ayala, five months; Joanly Ayala, one month; Ellen Lapowski, seven months; Joanne Masiello, one year, nine months; and Joanne Masiello, eight months. The Director stated that Ms. Ayala’s make-up would accept liability from Brockton and Framingham where she worked, but did not qualify for membership. Voted unanimously.

Agenda Item #5 – Refund Applications
The Board reviewed a list of refund applications submitted in May.
Motion by Gardner, seconded by Chamblin-Foster to accept eleven 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:

John Shinkwin: YES
Michael Gardner: YES
Nadia Chamblin-Foster: YES
James Monagle: YES
Francis Murphy: YES

Agenda Item #6 – Accidental Disability Application – Robert Foote
The Board reviewed the member’s application, treating physician’s statement and employer’s statement filed in connection with Robert Foote’s Disability application. Attorney Thomas Gibson appeared, representing Robert Foote.
Motion by Shinkwin, seconded by Chamblin-Foster to accept the Accidental Disability application filed by Robert Foote, Skilled Laborer in the Traffic Department and to request that PERAC convene a medical panel. Voted unanimously.

Agenda Item #7 – Accidental Death Benefit – Lawrence Ferazani
The Board reviewed the correspondence from Lawrence Ferazani’s treating physician, his death certificate and the certificate and narrative report of his 2003 medical panel.
Motion by Gardner, seconded by Shinkwin to Grant Accidental Death benefits to Beverly Ferazani, surviving spouse of Lawrence Ferazani, a retired Fire Captain. On a roll call, the motion carried on a 4-0 vote, with Chamblin-Foster absent.

Agenda Item #8 – Accidental Disability Benefit – Charles McNeely
The Board reviewed the certificate and narrative reports of three separate medical exams, member’s application, treating physician’s statement and employer’s statement filed in connection with Charles McNeely’s Disability application. Attorney Thomas Gibson appeared, representing Charles McNeely.
Gardner moved to seek clarification from the medical panel. Shinkwin seconded the motion. On a roll call, the motion was approved unanimously.

Agenda Item #9 – Accidental Disability Benefit – Anthony Poleo
The Board reviewed the certificate and narrative reports of three separate medical exams, the member’s application, treating physician’s statement and employer’s statement filed in connection with Anthony Poleo’s Accidental Disability application.
Motion by Gardner, seconded by Shinkwin to accept the findings of the medical panel and grant Accidental Disability benefits to Anthony Poleo, Senior Storekeeper with the Traffic Department. On a roll call, the motion carried on a 4-0 vote, with Chamblin-Foster absent.

Agenda Item #10 – Board Election
The Board reviewed a proposed timetable to conduct an election for a seat on the Retirement Board.
Burns reminded the Board that the term for the seat currently held by John Shinkwin expired on July 31, 2020. PERAC had encouraged Boards to postpone elections during the pandemic and allow current members to serve beyond the end of their term. With the State of Emergency
about to be lifted, Burns stated that it should be possible to hold an election safely. The election would be for the unexpired portion of the current term, which ends on July 31, 2023. Monagle moved to appoint Burns as the Election Officer, to conduct the election by mail and to accept the proposed timetable for the election. Gardner seconded the motion. The motion carried on a 3-0 vote with Shinkwin abstaining and Chamblin-Foster absent.

Agenda Item #11 – PERAC Memos
PERAC did not issue any new memos in May and no action was taken.

Agenda Item #12 - Old Business
The Chairman stated that there appear to be some outstanding contracts and other matters that he hopes to bring up at meetings during the summer. He stated that he still hopes to resume in-person meetings in September, and that he expected that all office staff would be working full-time in the office by the beginning of September. He also stated that he would prefer to continue scheduling regular Board meetings to start at 1:00 PM.

Gardner requested that the Board consider adopting remote participation under the rules in effect prior to the pandemic. The Chairman stated that he hoped to see more guidance from PERAC if there might be any changes to the rules around remote participation, but that he also wished to allow remote participation for Board members.

Agenda Item #13 - New Business
Not needed.

Agenda Item #14 - Executive Session
Agenda Item #6 – adopted
Agenda Item #7 – adopted
Agenda Item #8 – requested clarification
Agenda Item #9 – adopted

Agenda Item #15 - Chairman’s Report
The Chairman reported that he was deposed in the litigation involving the EQT / Rice Energy merger. Bernstein Litowitz is representing Cambridge in the matter.

Agenda Item #16 – Executive Director’s Report
The Director stated that she intends to make upgrades to the system’s website and add information on pending legislation and statistics about the membership.

The following documents were also reviewed by the Board:
- Notice of Retiree Deaths
- Boston Globe Opinion – How a commissioner changed the culture within the Boston Police Department – May 24, 2021
- Correspondence from Attorney Quirk re: John Fahey vs. Boston Retirement Board
- Correspondence from Aberdeen re: New Cambridge Relationship Coverage
- Lazard Portfolio Review – April 2021
- Correspondence from Mellon re: Mellon Equity Index Team Update

Monagle moved to adjourn at 4:00 PM.