

Regular Meeting – October 28, 2020

The Taunton Retirement Board (the “Board”) met at 1:00 p.m. today at 104 Dean Street, Suite 203, Taunton, MA with Chairperson Ann Marie Hebert presiding and board members Dennis M. Smith, Gill Enos, and Barry J. Amaral in attendance. Member Thomas A. Bernier participated remotely via Zoom.

Roll Call

All members were present at the 1:00 p.m. roll call

Also present were:

Paul J. Slivinski, Executive Director

Jessica Gonsalves

Maria Oliveira

With a quorum present, Chairperson Hebert called the meeting to order. The Chair noted for all that, due to the Governor’s current state of emergency declared for the COVID-19 pandemic, it has been determined that remote participation is permissible for those that choose to teleconference.

Regular Business:

Minutes – from the September 30, 2020 regular meeting.

On the motion by Smith, seconded by Enos, it was unanimously

VOTED: to approve the minutes.

VOTE: 5-0-0; Roll Call: Amaral “Yes”; Bernier “Yes”; Enos “Yes”; Hebert “Yes”; Smith “Yes”

Warrants – #75 thru #82 for 2020.

On the motion by Smith, seconded by Enos, it was unanimously

VOTED: to approve the warrants.

VOTE: 5-0-0; Roll Call: Amaral “Yes”; Bernier “Yes”; Enos “Yes”; Hebert “Yes”; Smith “Yes”

New members of the system to date:

- Suzanne Diminico, Taunton Public Schools, Group 1, 9+2%
- Luanthony Vega-Rivera, Taunton Public Schools, Group 1, 9+2%
- Martha Armstrong, Taunton Public Schools, Group 1, 9+2%
- Angela Constantino, GATRA, Group 1, 9+2%
- Katrina Perry, Taunton Public Schools, Group 1, 9+2%
- Janna Olson, Taunton Public Schools, Group 1, 9+2%
- Ashley Patenaude, Taunton Public Schools, Group 1, 9+2%

On the motion by Smith, seconded by Enos, it was unanimously

VOTED: to approve the new members.

VOTE: 5-0-0; Roll Call: Amaral “Yes”; Bernier “Yes”; Enos “Yes”; Hebert “Yes”; Smith “Yes”

Refunds/transfers subject to D.O.R. liens:

- Deborah Andrews, Taunton Nursing Home, Group 1
- Alberto Rivas, School, Group 1

On the motion by Smith, seconded by Enos, it was unanimously

VOTED: to approve the refunds & transfers.

VOTE: 5-0-0; Roll Call: Amaral “Yes”; Bernier “Yes”; Enos “Yes”; Hebert “Yes”; Smith “Yes”

Retirement/survivorship applications:

- Manuel Spencer (Police), Superannuation, Group 4, 12/31/20
- Thomas Bernier (Fire), Superannuation, Group 4, 1/2/21
- Steven Crowninshield (Police), Superannuation, Group 4, 12/31/20
- Debra Fasolo (City Clerk), Superannuation, Group 1, 1/4/21
- James Costa (Police), Superannuation, Group 4, 12/31/20
- Antonio Sousa (School), Superannuation, Group 1, 12/1/20
- Diane Sheehan, TMLP, Superannuation, Group 1, 12/31/20

On the motion by Smith, seconded by Enos, it was unanimously

VOTED: to approve the retirement and survivorships.

VOTE: 5-0-0; Roll Call: Amaral “Yes”; Bernier “Yes”; Enos “Yes”; Hebert “Yes”; Smith “Yes”

Deaths

- Carol Victorino, DOD: 9/23/20, School, Option B refund payable
- Paul Williams, DOD: 10/12/20, THA, Option D Survivor, no further benefits payable
- Gloria Floor, DOD: 10/22/20, TFD, Section 9 Accidental Death Survivor, no further benefits payable

On the motion by Smith, seconded by Enos, it was unanimously

VOTED: to acknowledge deaths and place on file.

VOTE: 5-0-0; Roll Call: Amaral “Yes”; Bernier “Yes”; Enos “Yes”; Hebert “Yes”; Smith “Yes”

Make-up/redeposits and liability for creditable service:

- Rachelle Farrar, School, M/U 2 years, 10 months, 4 days
- Cynthia Simmons, School, refund redeposit, 1 year, 8 months, 26 days
- Cynthia Simmons, School, M/U, 1 year, 6 months, 21 days
- James Hogan, School, M/U, 2 years, 0 months, 17 days 9/1/2018 to 10/24/2020.

On the motion by Smith, seconded by Enos, it was unanimously

VOTED: to grant creditable service and approve the buybacks/makeups.

VOTE: 5-0-0; Roll Call: Amaral “Yes”; Bernier “Yes”; Enos “Yes”; Hebert “Yes”; Smith “Yes”

PERAC Memo’s and correspondence:

- PERAC Memo #29/2020 – Mandatory Retirement Board Member Training – 4th Quarter 2020
- PERAC Memo #30/2020 – Compliance with the 2019 91A Process
- PERAC Memo #31/2020 – Appropriation Data Due October 31, 2020
- PERAC disability evaluation – Jason G. Martin – no further action needed at this time.
- PERAC – 91A 2019 Annual report of earned income not received for: **Stephen A. Adams, Alfred Borges, Thurman Evans, Chad Larivee, Randy Lombardi, Warren Offley, Maria Quercio, and Doreen Rua.**
- PERAC Memo #32/2020 – Allowable Earnings Determination, pursuant to G.L. c. 32, S 91A

On the motion by Smith, seconded by Enos, it was unanimously

VOTED: to receive and place on file all memo’s and table action on each disability retiree to give them one more month to comply with PERAC.

VOTE: 5-0-0; Roll Call: Amaral “Yes”; Bernier “Yes”; Enos “Yes”; Hebert “Yes”; Smith “Yes”

Investments & accounting:

- Accounting reports for m/e 08/31/20–Trial Balance, Cash Receipts & Disbursements, and Journal Entries. Bristol County Savings Bank Checking account statement and reconciliation as of 08/31/2020. After full review of all reports, the Board voted as follows:

On the motion by Enos, seconded by Smith, it was unanimously

VOTED: to approve accounting reports for m/e 08/31/2020 – Trial Balance, Cash Receipts & Disbursements, and Journal Entries and Bristol County Savings Bank Checking account statement and reconciliation as of 08/31/2020.

VOTE: 5-0-0; Roll Call: Amaral “Yes”; Bernier “Yes”; Enos “Yes”; Hebert “Yes”; Smith “Yes”

- Investments Purchased (\$8,017,220.94) and Sold \$8,016,285.51 for m/e 8/31/20

On the motion by Smith, seconded by Enos, it was unanimously

VOTED: to approve Investments Purchased & Sold for m/e 08/31/2020.

VOTE: 5-0-0; Roll Call: Amaral “Yes”; Bernier “Yes”; Enos “Yes”; Hebert “Yes”; Smith “Yes”

Funding & Budget requests:

- Budget expenditures and account balances thru m/e 09/30/2020. The Board noted that travel expense line-item had minimal expense totals and that these savings could be used to address the remaining ADA issues for the office. The rear door of the suite would need an automatic door installed to comply with ADA. The Board instructed the Ex. Director to obtain updated costs, and if reasonable, to have the ADA-compliant door installed.

On the motion by Enos, seconded by Smith, it was unanimously

VOTED: to accept budget report of accounts and expenditures thru m/e 09/30/2020 and approve having ADA complaint door installed.

VOTE: 5-0-0; Roll Call: Amaral “Yes”; Bernier “Yes”; Enos “Yes”; Hebert “Yes”; Smith “Yes”

Travel, Education & Conferences: There were none.

Legal matters:

- Legal expenses of \$9,408.00 for m/e 09/30/2020 for Atty. Michael Sacco.

On the motion by Amaral, seconded by Smith, it was unanimously

VOTED: to approve the legal expenses for m/e 09/30/2020.

VOTE: 5-0-0; Roll Call: Amaral “Yes”; Bernier “Yes”; Enos “Yes”; Hebert “Yes”; Smith “Yes”

Executive Director’s report:

- Assistant Director contract was provided to the Board for review.

On the motion by Enos, seconded by Smith, it was unanimously

VOTED: to approve the Asst. Director’s contract providing a salary of \$73,000/year with a 2% cola on 1/1/2021 and term ending on 12/31/2021-the Board noted it would review the salary one year from appointment date (on or about September 2021).

VOTE: 5-0-0; Roll Call: Amaral “Yes”; Bernier “Yes”; Enos “Yes”; Hebert “Yes”; Smith “Yes”

- Election update – November 10th. Ballot tabulation at 4:00 pm. All members were invited to either assist and/or witness the ballot tabulation.
- ADR application update – Matthew Skwato (police). Additional records are needed and this should be ready for the November meeting.
- Karen Medeiros – update for remote work for November – was accepted by the Board.
- PERAC approval received to retain Polen Capital (growth equity), Weaver-Barksdale & Assoc. (value equity), and Ceres Partners (agriculture) for another seven (7) years. New contract period for each manager will run from January 1, 2021 thru December 31, 2026.

On the motion by Enos, seconded by Smith, it was unanimously

VOTED: to set the new contract terms for these three managers to a 7-year period of 01/01/2021 thru 12/31/2026.

VOTE: 5-0-0; Roll Call: Amaral “Yes”; Bernier “Yes”; Enos “Yes”; Hebert “Yes”; Smith “Yes”

EXECUTIVE SESSION: There was none.

OLD BUSINESS: There was none.

NEW BUSINESS: There was none.

Administrative Assistant Interviews

The Board met to conduct interviews for the position of administrative assistant. There were two applicants: Jessica Gonsalves (Retirement Board Office Clerk) and Maria Oliveira (Human Resource Dept. Benefits Specialist).

The Board met with Ms. Gonsalves and Ms. Oliveira and posed various questions and reviewed their credentials, resumes etc. After review and discussion, each candidate was excused. The board discussed both candidates and they both were very qualified and presented well.

On the motion by Amaral, seconded by Enos, it was unanimously

VOTED: to offer the position to Jessica Gonsalves (who accepted) and set the annual rate of pay at \$50,000/year effective 11/2/2020 with a 2% cola on 1/1/2021. A contract will be finalized at the next meeting.

VOTE: 4-0-1; Roll Call: Amaral “Jessica Gonsalves”; Bernier “Jessica Gonsalves”; Enos “Jessica Gonsalves”; Hebert “Jessica Gonsalves”; Smith “Present”

There being no further business to come before the board, it was voted to adjourn at 2:15 p.m.

APPROVED BOARD OF RETIREMENT

Ann Marie Hebert, Ex-Officio, Chairperson

Paul J. Slivinski, Executive Director

Dennis Smith, Elected Member

Barry Amaral, Appointed Member

Thomas A. Bernier, Elected Member

Gill E. Enos, Appointed Member