

## **Regular Meeting – November 25, 2020**

The Taunton Retirement Board (the “Board”) met at 9:05 a.m. today at Taunton City Hall Council Chambers, 15 Summer St., Taunton, MA with Chairperson Ann Marie Hebert presiding and board members Thomas A. Bernier, Dennis M. Smith, Gill Enos, and Barry J. Amaral in attendance.

### **Roll Call**

All members were present at the 9:05 a.m. roll call

Also present were:

Paul J. Slivinski, Executive Director

Board attorney – Michael Sacco

Edward J. Walsh, Chief of Police

Amy Kazlaukus, Human Resources Director

Sgt. Matthew Skwarto, Police officer

Attorney Leigh Pantierre, legal counsel for Matthew Skwarto

Leslie D’Emilia, stenographer for Dunna Reporting Services

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.

*Note: no one teleconferenced for this meeting*

### **Regular Business:**

**Minutes** – from the October 26, 2020 special meeting and October 28, 2020 regular meeting.

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

**VOTED:** to approve the minutes.

VOTE: 5-0-0

**Warrants** – Review warrants #83 thru #89 for 2020.

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

**VOTED:** to approve the warrants.

VOTE: 5-0-0

**New members** of the system to date:

- Michelle Borrello, Board of Health, Group 1, 9+2%
- Karl Adkins, DPW, Group 1, 9+2%
- Jason Forret, School, Group 1, 9+2%
- Molly Leary, School, Group 1, 9+2%
- Kenney, Michelle, School, Group 1, 9+2%
- Pallotti, Nicola, School, 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

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

- Linda Moles, TNH, Group 1, refund

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

**VOTED:** to approve the refunds & transfers.

VOTE: 5-0-0

**Retirement/survivorship** applications:

- Steven Burns, Police, Superannuation, Group 4, 12/16/2020
- Joseph Lott Jr., Police, Superannuation, Group 4, 12/31/2020
- Brenda Caram, School, Superannuation, Group 1, 1/4/2021
- Karen Pereira, Library, Superannuation, Group 1, 2/3/2021
- Elizabeth Wheeler, Library, Superannuation, Group 1, 1/18/21
- Raymond Green, School, Superannuation, Group 1, 12/2/20

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

**VOTED:** to approve the retirement and survivorships.

VOTE: 5-0-0

**Deaths**

- Delores Kenney, DOD 11/6/20, Accidental death survivor of William
- Olga Saladyga, DOD 11/7/20, Option B, no further benefits to be paid

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

**VOTED:** to acknowledge deaths and place on file.

VOTE: 5-0-0

**Make-up/redeposits** and liability for creditable service: There were none.

**PERAC** Memo's and correspondence:

- PERAC Memo #33/2020, PROSPER Benefit Calculation Submission
- 91A – annual statement of earned income for 2019 – update was given to the board informing them that all prior nine (9) disability retirees have complied with PERAC and therefore termination proceedings are not necessary.
- PERAC approval received – selection of PIMCO as new Intl Fixed Income manager.

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

**VOTED:** to receive and place on file.

VOTE: 5-0-0

**Investments** & accounting:

- Accounting reports for m/e 09/30/20–Trial Balance, Cash Receipts & Disbursements, and Journal Entries. Bristol County Savings Bank Checking account statement and reconciliation as of 09/30/2020. After full review of all reports, the Board voted as follows:

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

**VOTED:** to approve accounting reports for m/e 09/30/2020 – Trial Balance, Cash Receipts & Disbursements, and Journal Entries. Bristol County Savings Bank Checking account statement and reconciliation as of 09/30/2020.

VOTE: 5-0-0

- Investments Purchased (\$18,445,725.81) and Sold \$18,446,661.24 for m/e 09/30/20 (from People's United Bank recap sheet).

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

**VOTED:** to approve Investments Purchased & Sold for m/e 09/30/2020.

VOTE: 5-0-0

**Funding & Budget requests:**

- The Board reviewed budget expenditures and account balances thru m/e 10/31/2020.

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

**VOTED:** to approve budget report of account balances and expenditures thru m/e 10/31/2020.  
VOTE: 5-0-0

- The Board reviewed a draft retirement expense budget for calendar year 2021.

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

**VOTED:** to take under advisement and refer to next month's meeting.

VOTE: 5-0-0

**Travel, Education & Conferences:** there were none.

**Legal** matters:

- Legal expenses of \$5,419.00 for m/e 10/31/2020 for Atty. Michael Sacco.

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

**VOTED:** to approve the legal expenses for m/e 10/31/2020.

VOTE: 5-0-0

**Executive Director's report:**

- Karen Medeiros – remote work request for month of December 2020 was accepted by the board.
- PIMCO – Intl Fixed Income fund contract update – Atty. Sacco's office is working with PIMCO's legal counsel to draft a side-letter agreement to bring their Subscription agreement into compliance with Massachusetts laws & PERAC investment regulations.
- Results from the November 10, 2020 board member election. Election officer Slivinski presented the results as follows:

At the close of the election at 4:00 PM on November 10, 2020, there were 751 total ballots cast. The final results of the Taunton Retirement Board election on November 10, 2020 are as follows:

Dennis M. Smith (incumbent)	530 Votes
Zachary Sousa	168 Votes
Richard J. Conti	46 Votes
Write-in's	2 Votes
Disqualified ballots	<u>5 Votes</u>
<b>TOTAL VOTES</b>	<b>751 Votes</b>

Dennis M. Smith, having received the majority of the votes cast, was declared the winner and will serve as an elected member of Taunton Retirement Board for a 3-year term commencing December 1, 2020 to November 30, 2023.

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

**VOTED:** to certify the election results declaring incumbent Dennis M. Smith the winner for another three-year term to run 12/01/2020 thru 11/30/2023.

VOTE: 5-0-0

- Draft contract – new Admin. Assistant Jessica Gonsalves to run from 11/2/2020 thru 12/31/2021 including a 2% cola on 1/1/2021.

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

**VOTED:** to approve signature of the contract.

VOTE: 5-0-0

- ADA issues – rear door to office suite update. Ex. Director waiting for quote from the landlord.
- Pictures – updated pics needed of the board members and staff for office, website, future newsletters etc. Ex. Director to make arrangements for pictures in the near future.

- Cost estimates – conference room video-conferencing equipment \$1,363.48 and staff equipment upgrades \$3,567.00 to allow for remote work. Member Enos asked if there was enough funds available in the budget. Ex. Director stated there was sufficient funds available.

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

**VOTED:** to approve the quotes and to purchase the equipment.

VOTE: 5-0-0

- City of Taunton Home rule bill update – On November 12, 2020, the State legislature and Gov. Baker have signed and approved of a home rule bill to allow maximum age factor under group 1 and eligibility under section 94B – Chapter 204 of the Acts of 2020-An Act Classifying the Taunton Fire Department Mechanic Michael Perry, In Connection with the Determination of Retirement Benefits.

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

**VOTED:** to accept Chapter 204 of the Acts of 2020 and to implement the revised retirement benefits for fire mechanic Michael Perry.

VOTE: 5-0-0

- Conflict of Interest training and certificates. Ex. Director noted that all certificates are due by early 2021.
- Daniel Dermody (deceased active member 05/16/2020) – survivorship under section 12B for dependent Luke Dermody. Ex. Director informed the board that Dan’s brother, Timothy Dermody, has been appointed as the Executor of Dan’s estate. Timothy Dermody recently provided the retirement office with information that Dan Dermody has a dependent child – Luke Dermody (age 15) – who is eligible for survivor benefits. Luke Dermody resides with his mother, Penny Dermody. The next step in the process is to make a determination of the legal guardian. The board conferred with Atty. Sacco who opined that the legal guardian is most likely the mother of the child. Ex. Director to send request to the executor Timothy Dermody to request information pertaining to the legal guardian.
- Board appointee position (currently Barry J. Amaral) to expire 02/27/2021.

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

**VOTED:** to post the Board-appointee position.

VOTE: 5-0-0

**OLD BUSINESS:** There was none.

**NEW BUSINESS:** There was none.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

At 9:30 a.m., Chairperson Hebert entertained a motion to go into Executive Session pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A, s. 21(a)(3) for the purpose of reviewing the application for voluntary accidental disability on Matthew Skwarto (Police Dept.) and the application for involuntary accidental disability retirement filed by the DPW on Kerin Corrigan (Water Division). The Board noted that it would reconvene in open session following the executive session. VOTE: 5-0-0

A roll call vote was taken and recorded as follows: Member Amaral “YES”; Member Bernier “YES”; Member Hebert “YES”; Member Smith “YES”, Member Enos “YES”.

*(The minutes of the executive session are kept in a separate minute book)*

**Open Session 10:42 a.m.**

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

**VOTED:** to record the votes that were taken during the executive session in open session.

VOTE: 5-0-0

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

**VOTED:** to accept the voluntary application of Matthew Skwarto (Police) and to request PERAC to convene a medical panel.

VOTE: 3-2-0

A roll call vote was taken and recorded as follows: Member Amaral “YES”; Member Bernier “YES”; Member Hebert “NO”; Member Smith “YES”, Member Enos “NO”.

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

**VOTED:** to allow Matthew Skwarto to be examined tele-medically (due to COVID-19).

VOTE: 5-0-0

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

**VOTED:** to deny the application of the DPW for involuntary accidental disability retirement on Water Dept. past employee Kerin Corrigan on the grounds that Ms. Corrigan has been terminated and is no longer an employee of the City of Taunton.

VOTE: 5-0-0

There being no further business to come before the Board, it was voted to adjourn at 10:47 p.m.

APPROVED BOARD OF RETIREMENT

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Ann Marie Hebert, Ex-Officio, Chairperson

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Paul J. Slivinski, Executive Director

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Dennis M. Smith, Elected Member

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Barry J. Amaral, Appointed Member

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Thomas A. Bernier, Elected Member

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Gill E. Enos, Appointed Member