

Regular Meeting – February 22, 2023

The Taunton Retirement Board (the “Board”) met at 1:03 p.m. today at the retirement board offices, 104 Dean St., Suite 203, Taunton, MA with Chairman Dennis M. Smith presiding and board members Barry J. Amaral, Thomas A. Bernier, Ian D. Fortes and Gill E. Enos was in attendance.

Roll Call

All members were present at the 1:03 p.m. roll call.

Also present were:

Karen Medeiros, Assistant Executive Director

Paul J. Slivinski, Executive Director

Greg McNeillie, Dahab via Zoom

Kevin Condy, Dahab

Meet with Greg McNeillie & Kevin Condy of Dahab Associates to review investment matters:

- Interview - Timberland Investment Resources

Timberland Investment Resources

Tim Hartigan from Timberland Investments came into our meeting at 1:25pm. His presentation consisted of an overview of Timberland investment Resources, LLC, the underbuilt housing deficit in the U.S., millennials buying homes and those that want to upgrade. The objective is to generate competitive returns by exploiting inefficiencies in the timberland asset class and manage for risk through a well-diversified portfolio. Minimum investment in Timberland is \$1mm. There will be no distribution of money during the 3 year investment period.

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

VOTED: to approve invest of \$2mm into Timberland Investment Resources, LLC.

VOTE: 5-0-0

- Review cash needs for retiree payroll and a draft best-practices policy for transfer of investments, divestments & reinvestments etc.

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

VOTED: to adopt the best practice policy effective 2/22/2023 and to notify all managers & bank custodian and also take \$5mm from the SSgA S&P500 index fund for cash needs.

VOTE: 5-0-0

- Review performance evaluation report for q/e & y/e 12/31/2022.

For the q/e 12/31/22, the fund returned +5.5% vs. policy index of +6.1%. For the YTD 2022, the fund returned -13.0% vs. policy index of -13.8%. Large-cap growth was out of favor for the year versus value. Large-cap growth equity manager Polen Capital had a difficult year with a performance of -36.7% vs. benchmark Russell 1000G -29.1%. Also, mid-cap equity growth manager Frontier lagged its index -27.7% vs. Russell MCG -26.7%. Small-cap manager Aberdeen also trailed its index with a return of -24.6% vs. Russell 2000 -20.4%. These were the biggest reasons for the year’s underperformance outside of the markets in general. Fixed income had one of its worst years ever with the Barlay’s Aggreg Index lagging at -13.0%. The bright spots were in real estate and agriculture.

- The Board reviewed information on private credit investments.

Kevin Condy of Dahab Associates reviewed information previously requested by the board on new asset classes for Private Credit and Marine investments. Mr. Condy presented information on Blue Ocean and investment opportunities in the marine industry. He also discussed the suggestion on behalf of Dahab to perform a private credit asset allocation review.

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

VOTED: to have Dahab perform a private credit asset allocation review.

VOTE: 5-0-0

Mr. McNeillie and Mr. Condy were excused from the meeting at 2:30pm.

The Board reviewed its regular business.

Regular Business:

Minutes – from the January 25, 2023 regular meeting.

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

VOTED: to approve the minutes.

VOTE: 5-0-0

Warrants –warrants #11 thru #17 for 2023.

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

VOTED: to approve the warrants.

VOTE: 5-0-0

New members of the system to date:

- Victoria Dion, Auditor's Office, Group 1, 9+2%
- Kimberly Boiros, Auditor's Office, Group 1, 9+2%
- Jazlyn McCall, GATRA, Group 1, 9+2%
- Francisco Medeiros, School Dept., Group 1, 9+2%
- Katrina Lee, Police Dept. Group 1, 9+2%
- Jeannette Hinds-Juba, GATRA, Group 1, 9+2%
- Kimberly Simmons, School Dept., Group 1, 9+2%

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

VOTED: to approve the new members.

VOTE: 5-0-0

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

- Bryan Stewart, TMLP, Refund
- Jeanette Berrios, Elections, Transfer to Massport, *Taunton will accept 1 year and 5 months of liability under G.L. c. 32, section 3(8)c on a 12-month basis. 5/17/2021 to 11/15/2022*
- Ronald Morgan, GATRA, Refund
- Vicci Snyder, GATRA, Refund

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

VOTED: to approve the refunds & transfers.

VOTE: 5-0-0

Retirement/survivorship applications:

- Donna Binns, Superannuation, School, Group 1, DOR: 6/2/2023

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

VOTED: to approve the retirements and survivorships.

VOTE: 5-0-0

Deaths

- Janis Souza, School, DOD: 12/22/22, Opt B. - All funds used up and no further benefits payable.
- Mark Blackwell, TMLP, DOD: 1/31/23, Opt C survivorship to Rosemarie Blackwell.
- Patricia Lawson, School, DOD: 2/14/23, Opt A, no further benefits payable.

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

VOTED: to acknowledge deaths and place on file.

VOTE: 5-0-0

Make-up/redeposits and liability for creditable service:

- Cynthia Venturelli, School, make-up, 2 years, 1 months, part time pro-rated, 3/2/19 to 1/21/23

- Mark Brady, Veteran buyback eligibility, over 180 days as Mr. Brady did not recall ever being informed.

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

VOTED: to accept liability for creditable service upon completion of makeup payments.

VOTE: 5-0-0

PERAC Memo's and correspondence:

- PERAC Memo #6/2023 – Buyback and Make-up Repayment Worksheets
- PERAC Memo #7/2023 -2023 Interest Rate set at 0.1%
- PERAC Memo #8/2023 – Actuarial Data
- PERAC approval of travel regulations
- PERAC approval of \$16,000 COLA base

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

VOTED: to receive and place all memo's on file.

VOTE: 5-0-0

Investments & accounting:

- Bristol County Savings Bank Checking account statement and reconciliation as of m/e 12/31/2022. Ex. Director noted that accounting reports were not complete for m/e 12/31/2022 as of yet. After the board's full review of all reports, it was voted as follows:

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

VOTED: to approve the Bristol County Savings Bank Checking account statement and reconciliation as of 12/31/2022.

VOTE: 5-0-0

- Investment Purchases (\$10,774,113.25) and Sales \$10,774,113.25 for m/e 12/31/2022.

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

VOTED: to approve the purchases & sales as of 12/31/2022.

VOTE: 5-0-0

Funding & Budget requests:

- The Board reviewed budget expenditures and account balances thru m/e 01/31/2023.

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

VOTED: to approve expenditures & balances and place on file.

VOTE: 5-0-0

Travel, Education & Conferences: there was none.

- NCPERS conference – notice to nominate delegates

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

VOTED: to receive and place on file.

VOTE: 5-0-0

Legal matters:

- The Board reviewed legal expenses of \$1,476.00 for m/e 1/31/2023 for Atty. Michael Sacco.

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

VOTED: to approve the legal expenses for m/e 1/31/2023.

VOTE: 5-0-0

Executive Director's report

- Cybersecurity training thru EOTSS grant awarded to Taunton

Asst. Director Medeiros informed the board that the Taunton Retirement Board & the City's IT Dept. will utilize a state grant for the Cybersecurity Training being offered thru EOTSS. Initial stages of this training are starting with a kickoff meeting via zoom. Mr. Fortes asked Ms. Medeiros to obtain an award-letter if money is associated due to the grant. Ms. Medeiros will contact the EOTSS and follow up with Mr. Fortes.

- Statement of Financial Interest (SFI) due by May 1, 2023. Each board member was reminded that these will be due soon.
- 2% COLA payment retro to July 1, 2022 (previously approved by the board and city).

The Retirement Board will proceed with the issuance of the retroactive cola increase in the February monthly deposit. A stub will be provided to all retirees explaining the increase.

- The Board reviewed three (3) quotes for office cleaning services.

Asst. Director Medeiros obtained quotes from the following:

- Miranda’s Cleaning Service, 2x week, \$1,200 monthly
- Peace and Clean Cleaning Co., 2x week, \$720.00 monthly
- CleanX, 2x week, \$450.00 monthly

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

VOTED: to hire CleanX and revisit June 30, 2023 to verify services are satisfactory.

VOTE: 5-0-0

Ex. Director Slivinski will inform CleanX and provide them with a fob to the suite. He will also inform Waterfront Realty that the Taunton Retirement Board will be terminating the cleaning contract for our suite. Ex. Director Slivinski will inform Miranda’s Cleaning and Peace & Clean that the decision was to hire another vendor.

Portable Defibrillator- Ex. Director Slivinski informed the board that our defibrillator is out of date and we need a new one along with training. He will coordinate the training and the purchase of a new machine.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: There was none.

OLD BUSINESS: There was none.

NEW BUSINESS: There was none.

There being no further business to come before the board, it was voted to adjourn at 3:07 p.m.

APPROVED BOARD OF RETIREMENT

Ian D. Fortes, Ex-Officio Member

Karen Medeiros, Ass’t. Executive Director

Dennis M. Smith, Elected Member, Chair

Barry J. Amaral, Appointed Member

Thomas A. Bernier, Elected Member

Gill E. Enos, Appointed Member

Paul J. Slivinski, Executive Director