

## **Regular Meeting – March 24, 2021**

The Taunton Retirement Board (the “Board”) met at 1:00 p.m. today at the retirement board offices, 104 Dean St., Suite 203, Taunton, MA with Chairperson Ann Marie Hebert presiding via Zoom remote participation. Also remotely participating were board members Barry J. Amaral, Gill E. Enos and Dennis M. Smith. In attendance was board member Thomas A. Bernier.

### **Roll Call**

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

Also present were:

Paul J. Slivinski, Executive Director (in attendance)

Board attorney Michael Sacco (via remote)

Police officer Matthew Skwarto III (via remote)

Atty. Leigh Pantierre, attorney for Mr. Skwarto (via remote)

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 February 24, 2021 regular meeting

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

**VOTED:** to approve the minutes.

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”.

**Warrants** – #17 thru #25 for 2021.

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

**VOTED:** to approve the warrants.

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”.

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

- Lauri Lemaire, Housing Authority, Group 1, 9+2%
- Connor Briggs, Police, Group 4, 9+2%
- Thomas Moscato, Police, Group 4, 9+2%
- Karen Sau, School Dept., Group 1, 9+2%
- Michael Arruda, DPW, Group 1, 9+2%
- Tony Medeiros, Light Plant, Group 4, 9+2%
- Kevin Perpetua, Park & Rec, Group 1, 9+2%

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

**VOTED:** to approve the new members.

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”.

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

- Elizabeth Cruz, School, Refund
- Jenny Morisseau-Jerome, Nursing Home, Refund
- Maria Lima, Nursing Home, Refund
- Deborah Harlow-Laird, School, Refund
- Kurt E. Carlson, School, transfer to Worcester Regional Retirement
- Kristel Burch, School, Refund
- Lynne DePonte, School, Refund

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

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

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”.

**Retirement/survivorship** applications:

- Steven P. Cote, Light Plant, Superannuation, Group 4, 5/18/21
- Robin Laine, widow of Russell Laine (Fire) who retired for Accidental disability on 10/18/2014 and died on 03/05/2021 of same causes – Section 9 Accidental Death survivor benefits.
- Maria M. Dutra, School, Superannuation, Group 1, 4/19/2021
- Gina Lumnah, School, Superannuation, Group 1, 3/24/2021
- Pamela Broderick, School, Superannuation, Group 1, 5/3/2021
- Deborah Bishop, School, Superannuation, Group 1, 6/19/2021
- Lisa Cornell, Light Plant, Superannuation, Group 1, 3/31/2021

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

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

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”.

**Deaths**

- John Gouveia, (School Custodian) dod 2/22/2021, wife Arlene, survivor Option C
- Ann Jackson, (School), dod: 2/24/2021, Option B, no further benefits payable, overpayment due \$159.66
- Russell Laine (Fire) dod: 03/05/2021, Accidental Disability Option C survivorship payable to spouse Robin Laine pending the processing of Section 9 accidental death benefits.
- Walter Burgess (TMLP), wife Dianne, survivor Option C
- Michael Larkin Jr., (TMLP) Superannuation dod 3/20/2021 – Option B benefits used up.
- Franklin Brown (Police) Accidental disability dod 3/21/2021 – Option B benefits used up and spouse is deceased.

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

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

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”.

**Make-up/redeposits** and liability for creditable service:

- Jeffrey Riccitelli, Veteran buyback, 1 year, 2 months.
- Dennis Perkins, Veteran buyback, 3 years, 9 months.

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

**VOTED:** to approve the purchase of military service.

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”.

**PERAC** Memo’s and correspondence:

- PERAC Memo #11/2021 – Benefit Calculation Submissions via PROSPER.
- PERAC Memo #12/2021 – Tobacco Company List

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

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

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”.

**Investments** & accounting:

- Accounting reports for m/e 01/31/2021 – Trial Balance, Cash Receipts & Disbursements, and Journal Entries. Bristol County Savings Bank Checking account statement and reconciliation as of m/e 01/31/2021. After full review of all reports, the Board voted as follows:

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

**VOTED:** to approve accounting reports for m/e 01/31/2021 – Trial Balance, Cash Receipts & Disbursements, and Journal Entries; the Bristol County Savings Bank Checking account statement and reconciliation as of 01/31/2021

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”.

- Investments Purchased \$40,892,720.31 and Sold \$40,804,670.81 for m/e 01/31/2021.

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

**VOTED:** to approve the purchases & sales as of 01/31/2021.

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”.

- FY2021 Pension Appropriation \$4,118,051.25 for q/e 3/31/2021 from City of Taunton.

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

**VOTED:** to place in money market account at People’s United Bank for cash needs.

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”.

**Funding & Budget requests:**

The Board reviewed budget expenditures and account balances thru m/e 01/31/2021 & 02/28/2021.

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

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

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”.

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

**Legal** matters:

- Legal expenses of \$1,650.00 for m/e 02/28/2021 for Atty. Michael Sacco.

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

**VOTED:** to the legal expenses for m/e 02/28/2021.

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”.

**Executive Director’s report**

- Asst. Director Karen Medeiros – remote work for the month of April 2021.

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

**VOTED:** to approve the request for remote work for April.

On discussion, Chairperson Hebert asked if any information has been filed to cover Ms.

Medeiros’ upcoming surgery in April under the FMLA. Ex. Director noted that the report was filed at last month’s meeting and was accepted by the board. Ms. Medeiros intends to use some sick leave but then work remotely while she recovers.

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 Board reviewed a cost-of-living adjustment increase from 1.3% to 3% max. on base of \$15K eff. 7/1/2021 for all eligible retirees & survivors. 30-day notice previously posted with the city.

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

**VOTED:** to approve increasing the cola from 1.3% to 3.0% eff. 7/1/2021 on a base of \$15k and to notify PERAC.

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”.

- Ex. Director Slivinski discussed the Open Meeting law and that there may be requests made to join the monthly board meeting via remote participation thru Zoom. The board instructed the Ex. Director to send out the Zoom meeting info to those parties who request to attend as long as they remain non-participants.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

At 1:23 p.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 report(s) of the medical panel on Matthew Skwarto III (Police dept.). 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 Enos “YES”; Member Hebert “YES”; Member Smith “YES”.

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

**Open Session 1:37 p.m.**

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

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

VOTE: 5-0-0

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

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

**VOTED:** to accept the reports of the medical panel and approve Accidental disability retirement for police officer Matthew Skwato III subject to final review by PERAC.

VOTE: 3-2-0

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

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Member Bernier asked about ADR retiree Russell Laine who recently passed away. Ex. Director mentioned that Mr. Laine chose Option C and a survivorship has been processed to pay his surviving spouse/widow Robin Laine. This allowance is pending the processing of Mrs. Laine’s petition for Accidental Death survivor benefits under section 9.

**NEW BUSINESS:** There was none.

There being no further business to come before the board, it was voted to adjourn at 1:40 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