

Regular Meeting – March 25, 2020

The Taunton Retirement Board (the “Board”) met remotely with the Zoom application 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, Thomas A. Bernier and Barry J. Amaral in attendance.

Roll Call

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

Also present via remote were:

Karen Medeiros, Administrative Assistant

Paul J. Slivinski, Executive Director

Greg McNeillie, Dahab Associates

REGULAR BUSINESS:

Minutes – from the February 26, 2020 regular meeting and executive session.

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

VOTED: to approve the minutes.

VOTE: 5-0-0

Roll call: Hebert “Yes”; Amaral “Yes”; Bernier “Yes”; Enos “Yes”; and Smith “Yes”.

Warrants – #19 thru #26 for 2020.

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

VOTED: to approve the warrants.

VOTE: 5-0-0

Roll call: Hebert “Yes”; Amaral “Yes”; Bernier “Yes”; Enos “Yes”; and Smith “Yes”.

New members of the system to date:

- Jennifer Martins, Council on Aging, Group 1, 9+2%
- Tori Sullivan, School, Group 1, 9+2%
- Christopher Coute, City Council, Group 1, 9+2%
- Tyler Arruda, TMLP, Group 1, 9+2%
- Rachael Costa, School, Group 1, 9+2%
- Michael Hughes, Police, Group 4, 9+2%
- Joshua Wakefield, Police, Group 4, 9+2%
- Keith Rowe, Police, Group 4, 9+2%
- Paige Blanchard, School, Group 1, 9+2%

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

VOTED: to approve the new members.

VOTE: 5-0-0

Roll call: Hebert “Yes”; Amaral “Yes”; Bernier “Yes”; Enos “Yes”; and Smith “Yes”.

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

- Lynn Davine (HR) transfer to Marlborough Retirement Board – 2 years, 6 months service
- Junio Andrade-Gomes (TNH)

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

VOTED: to approve the refunds & transfers.

VOTE: 5-0-0

Roll call: Hebert “Yes”; Amaral “Yes”; Bernier “Yes”; Enos “Yes”; and Smith “Yes”.

Retirement/survivorship applications:

- Cheryl Medeiros, TMLP, Superannuation, Group 1, 5/12/20
- Ronald Ferreira, TMLP, Superannuation, Group 1, 3/27/20
- Ellen McGovern, School, Superannuation, Group 1, 6/30/20
- Gina Corbo, School, Superannuation, Group 1, 6/24/20
- REVISION: Francis Gay, GATRA, Superannuation, Group 1, from 3/21/20 to 4/11/20
- Bernadette Kelleher, School, Superannuation, Group 1, 6/24/20
- REVISION: Marilyn Green, Park and Rec, Superannuation, Group 1, from 4/7/20 to 7/6/20

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

VOTED: to approve the retirement and survivorships.

VOTE: 5-0-0

Roll call: Hebert “Yes”; Amaral “Yes”; Bernier “Yes”; Enos “Yes”; and Smith “Yes”.

Deaths

- Eva Dupont (d.o.d. 2/24/20) Option A – no further benefits payable
- Theresa Leonard (d.o.d. 2/24/20) Option A and Opt C Survivorship – no further benefits payable
- Liberty Flannery (d.o.d. 3/1/20) Option A – no further benefits payable

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

VOTED: to acknowledge deaths and place on file.

VOTE: 5-0-0

Roll call: Hebert “Yes”; Amaral “Yes”; Bernier “Yes”; Enos “Yes”; and Smith “Yes”.

Make-up/redeposits and liability for creditable service:

- Refund redeposit: Jason Lemaire, Park and Rec, 9 years and 4 months
- Police dept. corrective M/U’s for Matt McCaffrey, Chris Brady, Jeff Martin & Steve Turner for Police/School Truant officer pay for 2018 up thru 3/5/2020.

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

VOTED: to grant creditable service and approve the veteran buyback and corrective m/u’s.

VOTE: 5-0-0

Roll call: Hebert “Yes”; Amaral “Yes”; Bernier “Yes”; Enos “Yes”; and Smith “Yes”.

PERAC Memo’s and correspondence:

- PERAC Memo #13/2020 – Updated Forms on the PERAC Website
- Completion of Retiree Evaluation-Susan M. Dykas. The Board is not required to take any further action at this time.
- PERAC Memo #14/2020 - Required Minimum Distribution: Still Age 70 ½ For This Year’s Notification
- PERAC Memo #15/2020 – Coronavirus: Contingency Planning
- PERAC Memo #16/2020 – Coronavirus Update

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

VOTED: to receive and place on file.

VOTE: 5-0-0

Roll call: Hebert “Yes”; Amaral “Yes”; Bernier “Yes”; Enos “Yes”; and Smith “Yes”.

Investments & accounting:

- Accounting reports for m/e 01/31/2020 – Trial Balance, Cash Receipts & Disbursements, and Journal Entries. Bristol County Savings Bank Checking account statement and reconciliation as of 01/31/2020. 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 accounting reports for m/e 1/31/2020 – Trial Balances, Cash Receipts & Disbursements, and Journal Entries. Bristol County Savings Bank Checking account statement and reconciliation as of 1/31/2020

VOTE: 5-0-0

Roll call: Hebert “Yes”; Amaral “Yes”; Bernier “Yes”; Enos “Yes”; and Smith “Yes”.

- Investments Purchased (\$56,945,578.50) & Sold \$56,945,578.50 for m/e 1/31/20.

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

VOTED: to approve Investments Purchased & Sold for m/e 1/31/2020.

VOTE: 5-0-0

Roll call: Hebert “Yes”; Amaral “Yes”; Bernier “Yes”; Enos “Yes”; and Smith “Yes”.

- FY2020 Pension appropriation from the City of Taunton for \$4,015,249.50 due by 03/31/2020.

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

VOTED: to invest the FY2020 Pension appropriation for the City of Taunton for \$4,015,249.50 due by 3/31/2020 in the money market account at People’s bank for future cash needs.

VOTE: 5-0-0

Roll call: Hebert “Yes”; Amaral “Yes”; Bernier “Yes”; Enos “Yes”; and Smith “Yes”.

Funding & Budget requests:

- Summary of budget accounts and expenditures thru m/e 1/31/2020

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

VOTED: to approve budget accounts and expenditures thru m/e 1/31/2020.

VOTE: 5-0-0

Roll call: Hebert “Yes”; Amaral “Yes”; Bernier “Yes”; Enos “Yes”; and Smith “Yes”.

Travel, Education & Conferences:

- NCPERS Conference for May 10-13, 2020 in Las Vegas, NV – Cancelled. The Board discussed reimbursements for those members who previously booked flights for the conference.

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

VOTED: that if a credit cannot be given with the airline for the purchased airline tickets for K. Medeiros, B. Amaral and D. Smith, then the board will pay for the flight. Written documentation is to be provided as to whether or not this can or cannot be done.

VOTE: 5-0-0

Roll call: Hebert “Yes”; Amaral “Yes”; Bernier “Yes”; Enos “Yes”; and Smith “Yes”.

Legal matters:

- Legal expenses of \$7,144.95 for m/e 02/29/2020 for Atty. Michael Sacco.

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

VOTED: to approve the legal expenses for m/e 02/29/2020.

VOTE: 5-0-0

Roll call: Hebert “Yes”; Amaral “Yes”; Bernier “Yes”; Enos “Yes”; and Smith “Yes”.

Executive Director’s report:

- COVID-19 Coronavirus update – business continuity plan discussion

The retirement office is basically following the City of Taunton’s emergency plans etc. A written plan will be submitted to the board detailing that will detail which staff will work from home and

which staff will be at the office etc. Ex. Director to work in the office and rotate Ms. Medeiros & Ms. Gonsalves from home. Ms. Maki has been ill with a compromised immune system so she is working from home.

- Executive session minutes – update re: release of any public info
Ex. Director identified a few meeting dates that may be released with certain redactions: 11/25/15-Charles Perry appeal; 1/26/16-Dan Bettencourt appeal; 10/26/16-Richard Pimental matter; 2/16/18-Jeffrey Arruda appeal; and 6/26/19-Elizabeth Grant matter. The remainder of the ex. Session minutes have confidential matters that cannot be released.
- Actuarial Valuation – preliminary results
Preliminary report from Dan Sherman was reviewed. Mr. Sherman will be invited to the April meeting for formal discussion.
- Russell Laine – ADR – presumption case.
Mr. Laine’s physician’s statement has been received. Currently collecting records from the Fire dept. on his pre-employ physical and other dept. records and fire call logs etc. Looking to schedule this for the April meeting.
- April 2020 board meeting date –next regular meeting is 4/22/20 @ 1pm.
- Kathy Maki, Assistant Director – health update and modified schedule – K. Maki is to remain working from home at this time.

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

VOTED: to accept the Executive Directors report and adopt recommendations.

VOTE: 5-0-0

Roll call: Hebert “Yes”; Amaral “Yes”; Bernier “Yes”; Enos “Yes”; and Smith “Yes”.

Investment matters:

Greg McNeillie from Dahab Associates was remotely present at 1:17pm. Mr. McNeillie reviewed the following:

Int’l Value Equity (active) Investment management

The Board and Mr. McNeillie reviewed fact sheets on Boston Partners & Wellington such organizational information, philosophy, various statistics, performance and fees etc.

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

VOTED to select Boston Partners for Int’l Value Equity investment mgmt.

VOTE: 5-0-0

Roll call: Hebert “Boston Partners”; Amaral “Boston Partners”; Bernier “Boston Partners”; Enos “Boston Partners”; and Smith “Boston Partners”.

Mr. McNeillie noted that Systematic’s funds are currently invested in the SSgA EAFE Index NL fund so there is no hurry with this investment. The approval and information still need to be transmitted to state regulator PERAC for final review and acknowledgment. After that, a contract needs to be negotiated and signed and then the investment can be made. The amount will be determined at the appropriate time based on current asset allocation etc.

Asset performance thru March 19, 2020. The assets were down -23.8% to-date. The board reviewed asset allocation vs. targets. Rebalancing was discussed by no action taken at this time.

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

VOTED: to receive and place on file the performance update thru 3/19/2020.

VOTE: 5-0-0

Roll call: Hebert “Yes”; Amaral “Yes”; Bernier “Yes”; Enos “Yes”; and Smith “Yes”.

TA Realty Core Property Fund, L.P. funding update – April 1, 2020

The Board and Mr. McNeillie discussed changing the investment amount from \$16 mm to \$12 mm due to a decreased value in investments across all asset classes – including real estate.

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

VOTED: to amend the commitment amount from \$16,000,000 to \$12,000,000 and maintain the allocation at 4.5% of assets.

VOTE: 5-0-0

Roll call: Hebert “Yes”; Amaral “Yes”; Bernier “Yes”; Enos “Yes”; and Smith “Yes”.

OLD BUSINESS:

The Board reviewed an increase in the cost-of-living adjustment from 1.6% to 3% for retirees & survivors effective July 1, 2020.

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

VOTED: to increase in the cost-of-living adjustment from 1.6% to 3% for retirees & survivors effective July 1, 2020 to apply only to the first \$15,000 of an allowance.

VOTE: 5-0-0

Roll call: Hebert “Yes”; Amaral “Yes”; Bernier “Yes”; Enos “Yes”; and Smith “Yes”.

NEW BUSINESS: There was none.

There being no further business to come before the Board, it was voted to adjourn at 1:26 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