

Regular Meeting – April 22, 2020

The Taunton Retirement Board (the “Board”) met remotely with the Zoom application at 1:00 p.m. on April 22, 2020 at 104 Dean Street, Suite 203, Taunton, MA with Chairperson Ann Marie Hebert presiding and board members Gill Enos, Thomas A. Bernier and Barry J. Amaral participating remotely and Dennis M. Smith in attendance.

Roll Call

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

Also present via remote were:

Paul J. Slivinski, Executive Director – in attendance

Atty. Michael Sacco, board attorney – via remote

Russell Laine – via remote

Dan Sherman of Sherman Actuarial Services – via remote

REGULAR BUSINESS:

Minutes – Review the minutes from the March 25, 2020 regular meeting.

On the motion by Enos, seconded by Smith, 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 – Review warrants #27 thru # 31 for 2020.

On the motion by Smith, 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:

- William Roth, Economic Development, Group 1, 9+2%
- Amy Kazlauskas, Human Resources, Group 1, 9+2%

On the motion by Enos, seconded by Bernier, 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:

- Kaleigh Powell (School)
- Claudine Ferreira (Nursing Home)
- Christine Yuen (Nursing Home)
- Valerie Scott (School)
- Karen Slivinski (Nursing Home)

On the motion by Amaral, seconded by Enos, 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:

- Francisco Leal, THA, Superannuation, 5/4/2020
- Revision: Francis Gay changed his retirement date from 4/11/20 to 5/2/20.
- Revision: Marilyn Greene, Park and Rec, retirement date reverted back to 4/6/20

On the motion by Bernier, seconded by Amaral, 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: There were none.

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

PERAC Memo’s and correspondence:

- PERAC Memo #17/2020 –Coronavirus Impact
- PERAC Memo #18/2020-Mandatory Retirement Board Member Training-2nd Quarter 2020
- PERAC Memo #19/2020-Tobacco Company List
- PERAC Memo #20/2020 – Coronavirus Update
- PERAC Memo #21-2020 – Post Retirement Restrictions During the State of Emergency

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 02/29/2020 –Trial Balance, Cash Receipts & Disbursements, and Journal Entries. Bristol County Savings Bank Checking account statement and reconciliation as of 02/29/2020. After the Board’s full review of all reports, it was voted as follows:

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

VOTED: to approve accounting reports for m/e 02/29/2020 – Trial Balances, Cash Receipts & Disbursements, and Journal Entries. Bristol County Savings Bank Checking account statement and reconciliation as of 02/29/2020

VOTE: 5-0-0

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

- Investments Purchased (\$20,632,589.88) and Sold \$20,632,579.02 for m/e 02/29/2020.

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

VOTED: to approve Investments Purchased & Sold for m/e 02/29/2020.

VOTE: 5-0-0

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

- Brandywine Global – acquisition by parent company Franklin Templeton of Legg Mason Inc. – consent automatic unless objections filed by 5/27/2020. Greg McNeillie states transaction will not affect our investment. Brandywine’s philosophy, process and personnel will not change.

On the motion by Enos, seconded by Smith, 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”.

Funding & Budget requests:

- Budget expenditures and account balances thru m/e 03/31/2020.

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:

- MACRS Spring Conference in Hyannis, MA – May 31 thru June 3rd. - CANCELLED

On the motion by Enos, seconded by Smith, 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”.

Ex. Director asked on behalf of Karen Medeiros regarding reimbursement for airfare for the NCPERS conference that was cancelled. Ms. Medeiros did receive a credit with Jet Blue but it must be used within 1 year of the May 10, 2020 travel date and next year’s NCPERS conference is scheduled for May 23, 2021 – more than one year. Ms. Medeiros is not sure she can use the credit and would rather be reimbursed. It was discussed that maybe the future conference flight has to be “booked” within one year versus “used” within one year. It is unclear. After review and discussion, the Board instructed the Ex. Director to contact PERAC’s legal dept. to ask if reimbursement can be given.

Legal matters:

- Legal expenses of \$2,206.65 for m/e 03/31/2020 for Atty. Michael Sacco.

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

VOTED: to approve the legal expenses for m/e 03/31/2020.

VOTE: 5-0-0

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

Executive Director’s report:

- Report on office / remote work etc. / Asst. Director Kathy Maki – illness update
- Retiree affidavits – in process
- Upcoming election – November 2020. The Board will discuss further at the regular meeting on 5/27/20 re: appointment of election officers, election date, etc.

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

VOTED: to accept the Ex. Director’s report.

VOTE: 5-0-0

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

OLD BUSINESS: there was none.

NEW BUSINESS: there was none.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At 1:15 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 application for accidental disability of Russell Laine (Fire 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 Hebert “YES”; Member Smith “YES”, Member Enos “YES”.

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

Open Session 1:30 p.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 Enos, seconded by Bernier, it was unanimously

VOTED: to accept the application of Russell Laine for accidental disability and to request PERAC to convene a medical panel examination.

VOTE: 5-0-0

The Board met with Dan Sherman of Sherman Actuarial Services to review the results of the January 1, 2020 actuarial valuation. Mr. Sherman provided the board with an analysis of gains and losses when compared to the last study on 01/01/2018. Statistics such as payroll growth, retirements, mortality, disability, and investment returns were reviewed. Mr. Sherman recommended changing the mortality assumption to better reflect those members in Group 4 for Police & Fire.

Current assumptions were reviewed with funding appropriations over various amortization periods versus alternate figures if the mortality assumption was changed and/or the cost-of-living base was increased to \$16,000 (from \$15K). Also reviewed was having figures broken out for the closure of the Taunton Nursing Home to be included in the final report.

After review and discussion, the Board voted as follows:

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

VOTED: to approve a change in the mortality assumption and to choose Option C on the proposed figures starting in FY2022 totaling \$18,732,279 with amortization changing from the year 2026 to 2030 with a 4.5% increasing funding schedule.

VOTE: 5-0-0

There being no further business to come before the Board, it was voted to adjourn at 2:23 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