

Regular Meeting – May 31, 2023

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 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 1:00 p.m. roll call.

Also present were:

Karen Medeiros, Assistant Executive Director

Paul J. Slivinski, Executive Director

Greg McNeillie, Dahab

The board met with Greg McNeillie of Dahab Associates to review investment matters:

- Investment Performance q/e 03/31/2023

For the q/e 3/31/23, the fund returned +4.2% vs. policy index of +5.0% and a total portfolio value of \$390,022,723. Mr. McNeillie has noted that the performance has been decent on the developing market value side since the change to Boston Partners.

- Aberdeen small-cap manager change – Tim Skiendzielewski leaving and Christopher Colarik appointed

Mr. McNeillie informed the board that Tim Skiendzielewski left Aberdeen to pursue a different working arrangement. He will be working with a former colleague, will be working from home and with smaller assets. Mr. Colarik is taking over for Mr. Skiendzielewski. He came from Glen-Mead small cap and he was the head of asset class. Mr. Colarik has a very good track record.

- Review any impact in performance due to ESG gaining a larger share of pension asset management

Mr. McNeillie informed the board that returns on private equity has lagged. Fixed income portfolio is headed in a positive direction and that he is pleased with the overall performance. He reiterated that diversification is the best approach. Dahab does not have any concerns pertaining to performance at this time.

Board member Enos asked Mr. McNeillie about Dahab doing a search for private credit and marine investment and asset allocation review including the presentation of it that Kevin Condy had suggested in the February 2023 meeting. Mr. McNeillie will follow up on that and report back to the board.

Mr. McNeillie was excused from the meeting at 2:01pm.

The Board reviewed its regular business.

Regular Business:

Minutes – Review minutes from the April 26, 2023 regular meeting and executive session.

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

VOTED: to approve the minutes.

VOTE: 5-0-0

Warrants –warrants #36 thru #47 for 2023.

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

VOTED: to approve the warrants.

VOTE: 5-0-0

New members of the system to date:

- Courtney Brocato, THA, Group 1, 9+2%
- Kylie Araujo, GATRA, Group1, 9+2%
- John Ferranti, School Dept., Group 1, 9+2%

- Donald Allsop, DPW, Group 1, 9+2%
- David McRae, Library, Group 1, 9+2%
- Nancy Phillips, THA, Group 1, 9+2%
- Calvin Botelho, School, Group 1, 9+2%
- Kevin Austin, School Dept., Group 1, 9+2%
- Benjamin Perkins, TMLP, Group 4, 9+2%
- Kerri Victorio, GATRA, Group 1, 9+2%
- Chris Carmichael, DPW, Group 1, 9+2%
- Peter Corliss, School Dept., Group 1, 9+2%
- Dana DaCosta, THA, Group 1, 9+2%
- Allyson McNeil, Library, Group 1, 9+2%
- Dana Avellar, School Dept., Group 1, 9+2%
- Andrew Sukeforth, Mayor's Office, Group 1, 9+2%
- Robert Owens, DPW Water Dept., Group 1, 9+2%
- Andrew Estus, Airport, Group 1, 9+2%
- Amber Jorge, School Dept., Group 1, 9+2%
- James Pateakos, OECD, Group 1, 9+2%

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

VOTED: to approve the new members.

VOTE: 5-0-0

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

- Melissa Gomes, Refund, GATRA
- Lianne Desrosiers, Refund, Assessor
- Felisha Costa, Refund, School
- Kasey Pilling, School, transfer to MTRS, Taunton will accept 1 year of liability under G.L. c. 32, section 3(8)c on a 12-month basis. 2/1/2021 to 02/09/2022

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

VOTED: to approve the refunds & transfers.

VOTE: 5-0-0

Retirement/survivorship applications:

- Richard Ferreira, TEMA, Group 1, Superannuation, DOR: 5/15/23
- Nancy Foley, GATRA, Group 1, Superannuation, DOR: 5/12/23
- Mary Ann Manning, School, Group 1, Superannuation, DOR: 9/1/23

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

VOTED: to approve the retirements and survivorships.

VOTE: 5-0-0

Deaths

- Frank Mastera, DOD: 3/25/23, Opt C pop up, 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:

- Andrew Trainor, Veteran m/u, 1 year, 9 months.
- Claire Marks, School, m/u, 1 year 6 months and 14 days, 8/22/15-11/19/16 and 1/7/17-6/22/19 pt-pro-rated
- Wendy Perry, School, m/u, 10/29/11 – 6/29/13, 10 months and 17 days, pt-pro-rated
- James Ritchie, School, m/u, 8/23/14 – 4/11/16, 6 months and 21 days, pt-pro-rated

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

VOTED: to accept liability for creditable service upon completion of makeup payments.
VOTE: 5-0-0

PERAC -none

Investments & accounting:

- Accounting reports for m/e 03/31/2023 – Trial Balance, Cash Receipts & Disbursements, and Journal Entries. Bristol County Savings Bank Checking account statement and reconciliation as of m/e 03/31/2023. After full review of all the reports, the board voted as follows:

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

VOTED: to approve the Bristol County Savings Bank Checking account statement and reconciliation as of 03/31/2023 and accounting reports for m/e 3/31/23.

VOTE: 5-0-0

- Investment Purchases and Sales for m/e 03/31/2023.

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

VOTED: to approve the purchases (\$15,198,732.45) & sales \$15,243,732.44 as of 03/31/2023.

VOTE: 5-0-0

Funding & Budget requests:

- The Board reviewed budget expenditures and account balances thru m/e 04/30/2023

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:

- NCPERS report and review of travel expenditures

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

VOTED: to accept report and approve all travel expenditures.

VOTE: 5-0-0

NCPERS Conference: May 21-24, 2023

Board Members Smith & Amaral, Ass't. Dir Medeiros and Admin. Ass't. Gonsalves recently attended the NCPERS Conference from May 21-24, 2023 in New Orleans, LA. Attendees took part in retirement and investment education offered by NCPERS. The Board's travel policy incorporates an emphasis on continuing education that is encouraged as a way to make sure the board members and staff holding positions of responsibility for the plan's viability are well informed and will be able to do their utmost to make sound decisions when challenged. A summary of topics covered were as follows:

NCPERS Annual Conference & Exhibition 2023-Education received on the following: A Year of Two Halves: Macro and Market Outlook for the Remainder of 2023 and into 2024, Skate Where the Puck is Going: Investment Opportunities for Institutional Investors in Africa, Why Securities Litigation is Now More Than Ever, Measuring Member Engagement for your Web Application, Areas of Opportunity and Risk in Today's Alternatives Market, Assessing the Sustainability of Your Public Pension Plan, Risk Management: A Key Reason for the Wisconsin Retirement System's Success, Real Estate Investments: The New Realty, Performance Measurement-Understanding your Board's Role in Performance Monitoring, Elevate the Conversation with your Actuary, International Small Cap and Emerging Markets: How Best to Access Opportunities, Private Credit: Identifying Opportunities for Attractive Returns, Six Key Drivers of Unintended Portfolio Outcomes, ESG Investing, Opportunities, Challenges and External Events, Legislative and Regulatory Update, Enterprise Governance for Public Retirement Systems: Exercising the Powers of the Board, A Scenario Approach to Pension Risk Management: What is it and Why is it Useful, The US Workforce is Changing – Evolving Pension Offerings to Serve the Future Membership, Strategy for Managing Cyber Security Resource Challenges, What Drives Long-Term Real Estate Value, National Litigation Trends Against Public Retirement Systems, and How Fiduciaries Can Effectively Mitigate that Risk,

Pensions Aren't the Only Thing to Think About – Other State and Federal Legislative Issues Affecting Retirement Security, Bonding Over Bonds – A Fireside Chat on the Current Bond Market Environment, Improving Financial Wellness for Americans in a Post-Pandemic Economy, Macro-Economic and Market Update.

Also NCPERS business meeting, conference resolutions and networking activities.

All Attendees reported that the programs were well presented. The interaction with professionals from all investment management styles was most beneficial. The subjects covered will assist in the fulfillment of fiduciary responsibilities.

Legal matters:

- The Board reviewed legal expenses of \$9,300.00 for m/e 04/30/2023 for Atty. Michael Sacco.

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

VOTED: to approve the legal expenses for m/e 04/30/2023.

VOTE: 5-0-0

Executive Director's report

- The Board Reviewed transfer from Pension Reserve to Pension Fund and response from PERAC actuary John Boorack. Mr. Boorack approved a transfer up to \$50mm.

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

VOTED: to revise a prior vote from \$8.3mm to \$30mm from the Pension Reserve to the Pension Fund in FY2024.

VOTE: 5-0-0

- Death of two retirees and recovery of overpayments – Jeannette Ferreira (\$1,271.41) & Janis Souza (\$332.99). These have become uncollectible.

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

VOTED: to write off the overpayment due to death that is owed by Jeanette Ferreira (\$1,271.41) & Janis Souza (\$332.99).

VOTE: 5-0-0

- June 28th meeting preview

Ex. Director Slivinski informed the board that there will be a disability hearing scheduled for Paul Garguilo on the June agenda.

Additional discussion points that came up during the meeting:

Ex. Director Slivinski informed the board that PERAC has approved funding for Jonathan Silva Military leave for period of 6/30/22 to 4/22/23.

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

VOTED: to approve funding for Jonathan Silva military leave totaling \$8,336.85 to be appropriated in FY24.

VOTE: 5-0-0

Regarding future over payments to retirees, the retirement office will contact the HR office and Treasurer's office to see if we could establish a new policy with the payouts of life insurance on a retiree. This would benefit the board when a situation presents itself where there is an overpayment and we need to recover the funds.

Chairman Smith spoke on the point of the full time clerk position that has been approved. He asked that Ex. Director Slivinski inform Ms. Barbrick of the board's decision to hire a full time person to replace the temporary part time position that she is in prior to the position being posted on July 1, 2023.

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 2:40 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