

Regular Meeting – August 26, 2020

The Taunton Retirement Board (the “Board”) met at 1:03 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, and Barry J. Amaral in attendance. Member Thomas A. Bernier participated remotely via Zoom.

Roll Call

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

Also present were:

Paul J. Slivinski, Executive Director

Greg McNeillie, Investment Consultant, Dahab Associates

Karen Medeiros, Admin. Assistant – via Zoom.

Investment Performance Evaluation q/e 06/30/2020

The Board met with investment consultant Greg McNeillie of Dahab Associates. Mr. McNeillie presented the board members with a report on investment performance thru q/e June 30, 2020. For the quarter, the assets returned +15.1% vs. the Policy Index of +13.8%. On a YTD basis, the assets returned negative (5.3)% vs. the Police Index of negative (2.3)%.

All managers were reviewed versus their respective benchmarks and performing within guidelines. Mr. McNeillie noted that QMA small-cap equity fund is still underperforming and this will have to possibly be addressed in the near future.

RFP’s – Large-cap Value, Large-cap Equity, Agriculture & International Fixed Income

All RFP’s have been posted and have due dates in early September 2020. Once received, Mr. McNeillie will compile a list and analyze all statistical data and meet with the board members to review and decide on who to bring in for formal interviews etc. Most likely the initial screening will be done at the October monthly board meeting.

Ex. Director Slivinski mentioned that cash will be needed for September 30ths retiree payroll in the amount of \$2 mm. Mr. McNeillie recommended it be taken from domestic equity which is somewhat over weighted versus targets.

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

VOTED: to liquidate the equity account managed by Polen Capital for \$2 mm.

VOTE: 5-0-0; Roll Call: Amaral “Yes”; Bernier “Yes”; Enos “Yes”; Hebert “Yes”; Smith “Yes”

The Board and Mr. McNeillie discussed annual manager reviews. It was agreed this would be done via Zoom. The dates of October 26th and November 30th were agreed on to split the reviews into two meetings starting at 8:00 am.

The Board changed the regular monthly meeting for September from the 23rd to the 30th and scheduled the rest of 2020 as: October 28th, November 25th (9 am); and December 16th.

REGULAR BUSINESS:

Minutes – from the July 22, 2020 regular meeting & executive session.

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

VOTED: to approve the minutes.

VOTE: 5-0-0; Roll Call: Amaral “Yes”; Bernier “Yes”; Enos “Yes”; Hebert “Yes”; Smith “Yes”

Warrants – #57 thru #64 for 2020.

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

VOTED: to approve the warrants.

VOTE: 5-0-0; Roll Call: Amaral “Yes”; Bernier “Yes”; Enos “Yes”; Hebert “Yes”; Smith “Yes”

New members of the system to date:

- Kyle Moore, THA, Group 1, 9+2%
- Andrew Przystas, TMLP, Group 4, 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: Amaral “Yes”; Bernier “Yes”; Enos “Yes”; Hebert “Yes”; Smith “Yes”

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

- Latoya McNeil, GATRA, refund, Group 1
- Mary Basilone, GATRA, refund, Group 1
- Estate of Cheryl Geer – in lieu of option D survivor benefits, spouse Edward Geer has elected a lump sum refund instead.

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

VOTED: to approve the refunds & transfers.

VOTE: 5-0-0; Roll Call: Amaral “Yes”; Bernier “Yes”; Enos “Yes”; Hebert “Yes”; Smith “Yes”

Retirement/survivorship applications:

- Peter Rodriguez, Superannuation, DPW, Group 1, 10/8/20
- Kathleen Beaulieu, Superannuation, School, Group 1, 8/18/20
- Maureen Ferris, Superannuation, School, Group 1, 8/19/20
- Joseph Sylvia, Superannuation, DPW, Group 1, 11/20/20
- David McAlpine, Superannuation, TMLP, Group 4, 9/8/20
- Belmeda Perry, widow of Edward Perry who was deceased 8/18/2020 under accidental disability and died of causes unrelated to his disability. Mrs. Perry to receive \$1,000/month under G.L. c. 32, section 101 survivorship.
- Michael Prado, Superannuation, Group 1, DPW, 12/21/20
- Sharon Curry, Superannuation, Group 1, School, 9/8/20

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

VOTED: to approve the retirement and survivorships.

VOTE: 5-0-0; Roll Call: Amaral “Yes”; Bernier “Yes”; Enos “Yes”; Hebert “Yes”; Smith “Yes”

Deaths

- Carol A. Gill, DOD: 7/19/20, Option A no benefits to be paid out, overpayment due
- Ledora Soitos, DOD: 7/22/20, Option B, all benefits used, overpayment due
- Kenneth Lunn, DOD: 7/22/20, Accidental Disability Option A. No benefits to be paid out. Overpayment due.
- Margaret Stakus, DOD: 8/4/20, Superannuation Option B, all benefits used up.
- Stephanie Martyniak, DOD: 8/5/20, Option C Survivor – no further benefits payable.
- Edward Perry, DOD 8/18/20, Accidental Disability Option B. Funds used up. Section 101 survivor is spouse/widow Belmeda.
- Clarence Lancaster, DOD 8/20/20, Superannuation Option A. No benefits to be paid out.

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

VOTED: to acknowledge deaths and place on file.

VOTE: 5-0-0; Roll Call: Amaral “Yes”; Bernier “Yes”; Enos “Yes”; Hebert “Yes”; Smith “Yes”

Make-up/redeposits and liability for creditable service:

- Tyler Arruda, TMLP, m/up, 02/20/2018 to 09/05/2019 - 1 year, 6 months, 17 days
- Zachary Sousa, TMLP, m/up, 1/12/2016 to 05/10/2016 and 09/13/2016 to 12/27/2016 -7 months
- Charles Moniz Jr., DPW, refund redeposit for prior STATE service 02/26/1984 to 05/10/1986 - 2 years, 2 months, 15 days
- Isabel Velozo, School, 02/01/2014 to 4/13/2016 – prorated service 1 years, 8 mos.

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

VOTED: to grant creditable service and approve the buybacks/makeups.

VOTE: 5-0-0; Roll Call: Amaral “Yes”; Bernier “Yes”; Enos “Yes”; Hebert “Yes”; Smith “Yes”

PERAC Memo’s and correspondence:

- Perac Investment Report 2019. Taunton earned 21.45% for 2019; 5-year return 8.01%; 10-year return 9.39% and 35-year return 9.61%. The Board was very pleased with the results.

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

VOTED: to receive and place on file.

VOTE: 5-0-0; Roll Call: Amaral “Yes”; Bernier “Yes”; Enos “Yes”; Hebert “Yes”; Smith “Yes”

Investments & accounting:

- Accounting reports for m/e 6/30/20–Trial Balance, Cash Receipts & Disbursements, and Journal Entries. Bristol County Savings Bank Checking account statement and reconciliation as of 6/30/2020. After full review of all reports, the Board voted as follows:

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

VOTED: to approve accounting reports for m/e 06/30/2020 – Trial Balance, Cash Receipts & Disbursements, and Journal Entries and Bristol County Savings Bank Checking account statement and reconciliation as of 06/30/2020.

VOTE: 5-0-0; Roll Call: Amaral “Yes”; Bernier “Yes”; Enos “Yes”; Hebert “Yes”; Smith “Yes”

- Investments Purchased (\$12,886,347.18) and Sold \$12,886,347.18 for m/e 6/30/2020.

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

VOTED: to approve Investments Purchased & Sold for m/e 06/30/2020.

VOTE: 5-0-0; Roll Call: Amaral “Yes”; Bernier “Yes”; Enos “Yes”; Hebert “Yes”; Smith “Yes”

Funding & Budget requests:

- Budget expenditures and account balances thru m/e 07/31/2020.

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

VOTED: to accept budget report of accounts and expenditures thru m/e 7/31/2020.

VOTE: 5-0-0; Roll Call: Amaral “Yes”; Bernier “Yes”; Enos “Yes”; Hebert “Yes”; Smith “Yes”

Travel, Education & Conferences:

- MACRS Legal Panel – September 3, 2020. Three (3) CEU’s available for board members.

All board members were informed of the option to participate to attain credit.

Legal matters:

- Legal expenses of \$725.00 for m/e 07/31/2020 for Atty. Michael Sacco.

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

VOTED: to approve the legal expenses for m/e 07/31/2020.

VOTE: 5-0-0; Roll Call: Amaral “Yes”; Bernier “Yes”; Enos “Yes”; Hebert “Yes”; Smith “Yes”

Executive Director’s report:

- Karen Medeiros – update for remote work for September.

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

VOTED: to approve and place on file.

VOTE: 5-0-0; Roll Call: Amaral “Yes”; Bernier “Yes”; Enos “Yes”; Hebert “Yes”; Smith “Yes”

- Resumes for Assistant Executive Director – six (6) resumes were received - Amanda Bethel; John Galvin; Michael McCarthy; Karen Medeiros; Patricia Sprague; and Brian Stafford. After review and discussion, the Board voted as follows:

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

VOTED: to invite the three candidates with MGL c. 32 retirement experience – Amanda Bethel; Karen Medeiros & Patricia Sprague for interviews.

VOTE: 5-0-0; Roll Call: Amaral “Yes”; Bernier “Yes”; Enos “Yes”; Hebert “Yes”; Smith “Yes”

- Election update – three (3) qualified candidates running for election on Nov. 10, 2020 as follows: Richard Conti; Zachary Sousa; and incumbent Dennis Smith.
- GASB 67/68 audit – the audit has been completed and invoice has been received for \$9,500.
- OPEB study FY2021 – the city is conducting bi-annual study and the retirement office has been providing the required information.
- Annual Affidavits – update on those still outstanding. Six retirees to be changed to paper checks and to hold until compliance is met: Philip Innes; James Pirozzi; Ramon Santiago Ramos; Joseph Rogers; Anthony Silva; and Michael Silva.
- Next month preview – working on accidental disability application for Matthew Skwato (Police).
- Petty Cash expenditures invoices #302 thru #308 – Ex. Dir. Recommended approval and replenishment.

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

VOTED: to approve invoices #302 to #308 and to replenish up to \$150.00.

VOTE: 5-0-0; Roll Call: Amaral “Yes”; Bernier “Yes”; Enos “Yes”; Hebert “Yes”; Smith “Yes”

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 2:30 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 Bernier, Elected Member

Gill E. Enos, Appointed Member