

Regular Meeting – June 25, 2025

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, Gill E. Enos were in attendance. Ian D. Fortes was absent.

Roll Call

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

Also present were:

Paul J. Slivinski, Executive Director

Karen Medeiros, Asst. Exec. Director

Regular Business:

Minutes: from the May 28, 2025 regular & executive session meetings and the June 16, 2025 special meeting.

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

VOTED: to approve May 28, 2025 regular & executive session & June 16, 2025 meeting minutes.

VOTE: 4-0-0

Warrants: #44 thru #55 for 2025

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

VOTED: to approve the warrants.

VOTE: 4-0-0

New members:

- Sarah Hall, Planning and Conservation, Group 1, 9+2%
- Matthew DiCarlo, TMLP, Group 4, 9+2%
- Jacquelyn Ciarcia, Taunton Public School, Group 1, 9+2%
- Renee Felings, GATRA, Group 1, 9+2%

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

VOTED: to approve the new members.

VOTE: 4-0-0

Refunds/transfers:

- Megan Whitty, Taunton Public School, Refund, 11/06/2019-03/13/2020, 4 mos.

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

VOTED: to approve the refunds/transfers.

VOTE: 4-0-0

Retirements/survivorship applications

- Tobias Cowans, Superannuation, Human Services, DOR: 5/27/25, Group 1 – now has rescinded his retirement.
- Audrey Serrecchia, Superannuation, School, DOR: 6/30/25, Group 1
- Donna Giannini, Superannuation, School, DOR: 9/8/2025, Group 1
- Lisa A. Costa, Superannuation, THA, DOR: 9/22/25, Group 1
- Suzanne Mulcahy, Superannuation, School, DOR: 9/5/25, Group 1
- Maria J. Oliveira, Superannuation, HR, DOR: 6/30/25, Group 1
- Thomas M. Keating, Superannuation, DPW- Water, DOR: 8/30/25, Group 1

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

VOTED: to approve the retirements/survivorships.

VOTE: 4-0-0

Deaths:

- Jacklyn M. Amaral, TPS, DOD 5/19/2025, Superannuation Option C survivorship to widow, Fernando.
- Irene Ferreira, TPS, DOD 5/22/2025, Superannuation Option B, no further benefits payable.
- Shirley Ferreira, Option C survivor of Francis. DOD 5/11/2024. Overpayment needs to be recovered.

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

VOTED: to acknowledge deaths, place on file, to have Attorney Sacco start the process to attempt to recover the overpayment of funds from Shirley Ferreira's bank account and to have the Ex. Director explore with ABL the delay that has occurred on the reporting of Shirley Ferreira's death.

VOTE: 4-0-0

Makeups/redeposits:

- Jonathan Simmons, Fire dept, was added during the meeting by Ex. Director Slivinski. He will be doing a military buyback. 4 years.

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

VOTED: to approve Jonathan Simmons, Fire dept, 4 years military buyback

VOTE: 4-0-0

PERAC memo's:

- Memo #15/2025 - Violent Act Injury Disability- Updated Forms
- Memo #16/2025 – Tobacco Company List

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

VOTED: to acknowledge the PERAC memos and place on file.

VOTE: 4-0-0

Investments/accounting:

- Accounting reports for m/e 04/30/2025–trial balance, cash receipts & disbursements, journal entries, and general ledger. After the board's full review of all reports, the board voted as follows:

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

VOTED: to approve the accounting reports for m/e 04/30/2025.

VOTE: 4-0-0

- Bristol County & IntraFi bank account statements and reconciliations for m/e 04/30/2025.

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

VOTED: to approve the bank statements and reconciliations for m/e 04/30/2025.

VOTE: 4-0-0

- Investment m/e 04/30/2025 Purchases (\$3,797,720.18) & Sales \$3,797,720.18

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

VOTED: to approve and place on file the investments purchased & sold for m/e 04/30/2025.

VOTE: 4-0-0

- Vontobel International Fund – was recently changed to a mutual fund, however Vontobel is unable to update the side-letter agreement because of mutual fund's provisions. Recommended to change back to a commingled investment trust (CIT) and update side-letter agreement. Also Vontobel to offer lower fees in the CIT which is what the board was originally invested in.

Funding & Budget:

- Budget expenditures and account balances as of m/e 5/31/2025.

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

VOTED: to approve expenditures & balances as of 05/31/2025.

VOTE: 4-0-0

Travel, Education & Conferences: There was none

Legal matters:

- Legal expenses for m/e 05/31/2025 from Sacco & Collins, P.C. \$1,783.00

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

VOTED: to approve the legal expenses for m/e 05/31/2025.

VOTE: 5-0-0

Executive Director's report

- Draft Statement of Protocol (SOP) for suspicious and emergency calls or visits to the retirement office. Human Services Director, Charlene Bonenfant provided the board with the draft SOP for suspicious and emergency situations.

- Retiree/survivor Emergency Contact form

Asst. Ex. Dir. Medeiros created the Emergency Contact form which will capture pertinent information for all retirees and survivors. The first mailing for these will be mailed by 8/1 and then they will be mailed when affidavits are mailed going forward.

- Newsletter – ideas, issues, suggestions

Ex. Dir. Slivinski discussed some topics for the newsletter with the board that he had in mind such as the COLA, Pension Fraud, Violent Assault law, PSTD bill, HERO/Veteran law, the upcoming election etc.

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

VOTED: to accept the Executive Directors report, approve the draft SOP and emergency contact form.

VOTE: 4-0-0

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 1:35pm

APPROVED BOARD OF RETIREMENT

Barry J. Amaral, Appointed member

Thomas A. Bernier, Elected member

Gill E. Enos, Mayoral appointed member

Absent
Ian D. Fortes, Ex-officio member

Dennis M. Smith, Elected member/Chair

Paul J. Slivinski, Executive Director

Karen Medeiros, Asst. Ex. Director