

Regular Meeting – July 24, 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, Ian D. Fortes and Gill E. Enos were in attendance. .

Roll Call

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

Also present were:

Paul J. Slivinski, Executive Director

Karen Medeiros, Asst. Exec. Director

Board Attorney Joseph Kenyon, via Zoom

Executive Session:

At 1:02 p.m., Chairman Smith entertained a motion to go into Executive Session pursuant to M.G.L. c.30A, s. 21(a)(3) to review the PERAC correspondence recommending clarification reports to be sent to the medical panel on the ADR application of Nicholas Garnett and also the Kathleen Smith overpayment matter-update on records obtained via subpoena. The Board noted that it would reconvene in open session following the executive session.

A roll call vote was taken and recorded as follows: Member Amaral “Yes”; Member Bernier “Yes”, Member Enos “Yes”, Member Fortes “Yes”, Member Smith “Yes”. VOTE: 5-0-0

(The minutes of the executive session are kept in a separate minute book and will be reviewed for disclosure at a future date)

OPEN session meeting returned at 1:14 p.m.

OPEN SESSION:

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

VOTED: to record the votes taken in executive session in open session.

VOTE: 5-0-0

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

VOTED: to approve the medical clarification reports on Nicholas Garnett as recommended by PERAC and upload into PROSPER.

VOTE: 5-0-0

A roll call vote was taken and recorded as follows: Member Fortes “YES”, Member Amaral “YES”; Member Bernier “YES”; Member Enos “YES”; Member Smith “YES”.

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

VOTED: withdraw the complaint in the matter of Kathleen Smith and take no further action.

VOTE: 5-0-0

A roll call vote was taken and recorded as follows: Member Fortes “YES”, Member Amaral “YES”; Member Bernier “YES”; Member Enos “YES”; Member Smith “YES”.

Bill Keefe from PERAC joined the board meeting at 1:16 pm. Bill’s visit was to reiterate PERACs purpose to be of help and support. He gave an overview of some changes, updates within PERAC, emerging issue seminars and addressed any and all concerns the board had.

Bill Keefe exited the meeting at 1:41pm.

Regular Business:

Minutes: from the June 25, 2025 regular meeting minutes

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

VOTED: to approve June 25, 2025 regular meeting minutes.

VOTE: 5-0-0

Warrants: #56 thru #65 for 2025

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

VOTED: to approve the warrants.

VOTE: 5-0-0

New members:

- April Funches, ~~School~~ Opioid Coordinator office, Group 1, 9+2%
- Kevin Crowell, Taunton Public School, Group 1, 9+2%
- Rachel Coffey, Taunton Public School, Group 1, 9+2%
- Juliana Therrien, Taunton Public School, Group 1, 9+2%
- Nelson Marques, DPW, Group 1, 9+2%
- Jennifer Nolan, Taunton Public School, Group 1, 9+2%
- Mollie Macdonald, Taunton Public School, Group 1, 9+2%
- Mark Marvel, TMLP, Group 4, 9+2%
- Tyren Heggs, Taunton Fire, Group 4, 9+2%
- Patrick Melo, Taunton Fire, Group 4, 9+2%
- Presley Toli, Taunton Public School, Group 1, 9+2%

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

VOTED: to approve the new members as amended.

VOTE: 5-0-0

Refunds/transfers:

- Alexandra S. Carreiro, transfer to State, 8/31/16 to 6/29/17, *Taunton will accept 9 months of liability under G.L. c. 32, section 3(8)c on a 12-month basis.*
- Elizabeth Rocha-Lopes, GATRA, Refund 7/18/2022-6/27/2025, 2 yrs., 11 mos.
- Michael A Medeiros, TMLP, Refund 6/20/2023 to 12/08/2023, 5 months.

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

VOTED: to approve the refunds/transfers.

VOTE: 5-0-0

Retirements/survivorship applications

- Antonio Vieira, Housing Authority, Superannuation, Group 1, 07/01/2025
- Paul M. Cournoyer, School, Superannuation, Group 1, 08/31/2025
- Cheryl A. Castro, School, Superannuation, Group 1, 08/01/2025

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

VOTED: to approve the retirements/survivorships.

VOTE: 5-0-0

Deaths:

- Robert A. Silva (Parks & Playgrounds) DOD 6/27/25, Accidental Disability, Option B-funds used up. Widow Linda Silva eligible for \$1,000/mo. Section 101 survivorship.

- Michael House (Veteran's Services) DOD 7/6/2025, Ordinary Disability, Option C survivorship to widow, Patricia House.

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

VOTED: to acknowledge deaths, approve the survivorships and place on file.

VOTE: 5-0-0

Makeups/redeposits:

- Matthew Champagne (Fire Dept.) Veteran service credit – 3 years
- Michael Creamer (Police Dept.) Veteran service credit – 1 year/3 months
- Robert F. Fitzgerald, Jr. (Fire Dept.) Veteran service credit – 3 years
- Benjamin Ingemi (TMLP) Veteran service credit – 4 years
- Evan Lavigne, (Police Dept.) Veteran service credit – 3 years/11 months
- Anthony Melito, (Fire Dept.) Veteran service credit – 3 years
- Joseph Schnupp, (Police Dept.) Veteran service credit – 1 year/5 months
- Denzel Santos, (Police Dept.) Veteran service credit – 7 months
- Sara Pierce, (Police Dept.) Veteran service credit – 1 year/3 months
- Daniel S. Miller, Jr., (Fire Dept.) Veteran service credit – 4 years
- Nelson Marques (DPW) p.t. service 02/03/2024 to 06/30/2025 – 7 months

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

VOTED: to approve the makeups and redeposits.

VOTE: 5-0-0

PERAC memo's:

- Memo #17/2025 – Revised Language for Benefit Calculation Approval Letters
- Memo #18/2025 - Cyber Attack
- Memo #19/2025 - Updated Member and Beneficiary Refund Forms & IRS Special Tax Notice
- Memo #20/2025 - Mandatory Retirement Board Member Training- 3rd Quarter, 2025
- Memo #21/2025 – FY2026 Budget and the Definition of Wages in Chapter 32
- Memo #22/2025 – Fraud Alert
- Memo #23/2025- Cost of Living Increase for Supplemental Department Allowance Paid to Accidental Disability Retirees and Accidental Death Survivors
- Memo #24/2025- Reinstatement of Service under G.L. c.32 105

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

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

VOTE: 5-0-0

Investments/accounting:

- Accounting reports for m/e 05/31/2025–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 Amaral, seconded by Enos, it was unanimously

VOTED: to approve the accounting reports for m/e 05/31/2025.

VOTE: 5-0-0

- Bristol County & IntraFi bank account statements and reconciliations for m/e 05/31/2025.

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

VOTED: to approve the bank statements and reconciliations for m/e 05/31/2025.

VOTE: 5-0-0

- Investment m/e 05/31/2025 Purchases (\$5,823,524.19) & Sales \$5,823,524.19 from Wilmington Trust statements.

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

VOTED: to approve and place on file the investments purchased & sold for m/e 05/31/2025.
VOTE: 5-0-0

Funding & Budget:

- Budget expenditures and account balances as of m/e 6/30/2025.

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

VOTED: to approve expenditures & balances as of 06/30/2025.

VOTE: 5-0-0

The Board reviewed a request for cellphone stipends for Director & Asst. Director due to multi-factor authentication requirements to enhance security and also for viewing & responding to work email while offsite. Member Enos will obtain a quote from the City's IT department for a phone and phone plan.

This will be presented at the August board meeting.

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

VOTED: to postpone the request for the cellphone stipend for the Ex. Director and Asst. Director to the August board meeting.

VOTE: 5-0-0

Travel, Education & Conferences:

There is a PERAC training coming up for New Administrators in early 2026 that will be held in Norwood, MA. The Board agreed that Asst. Dir. Medeiros, Admin. Asst. Gonsalves and Office Clerk Tremblay can attend together.

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

VOTED: to give permission for the above stated 3 staff members to attend the PERAC New Administrator's training in Norwood, MA in early 2026.

VOTE: 5-0-0

Legal matters:

- Legal expenses for m/e 06/30/2025 from Sacco & Collins, P.C. \$1,165.77

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

VOTED: to approve the legal expenses for m/e 06/30/2025.

VOTE: 5-0-0

Executive Director's report

- insurance update
- ABL death monitoring service update
- Update on Shirley Ferreira overpayment matter
- July 1, 2025 COLA update

Ex. Dir. Slivinski suggested to the Board to have a insurance broker be come in to give a presentation on different coverage options. The purpose of additional coverage would be supplemental to PTG's Rackspace and the City of Taunton's insurance policy that is already in place.

ABL Death monitoring service update- Ex. Dir. Slivinski informed the Board that ABL is working as designed and Shirley Ferreira was in the first file that was uploaded although we did not see that in the report.

Update on Shirley Ferreira overpayment matter- Ex. Dir. Slivinski, informed the Board that Attorney Allan Medeiros was on Ms. Ferreira's account and Mr. Medeiros recently passed away. His son is handling his father's estate and Ex. Dir. Slivinski is waiting for a phone call back from him.

July 1, 2025 COLA update- A Cost of Living Adjustment has been issued to retirees that have been retired on or before June 30, 2024. This is being issued in the July deposit which is going into the retiree's accounts on 7/31/25.

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

VOTED: to accept the Executive Directors report, and to have the Ex. Director schedule a insurance broker to come in during the August or September board meeting to give a presentation on different coverage options.

VOTE: 5-0-0

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 2:11pm

APPROVED BOARD OF RETIREMENT

Barry J. Amaral, Appointed member

Thomas A. Bernier, Elected member

Gill E. Enos, Mayoral appointed member

Ian D. Fortes, Ex-officio member

Dennis M. Smith, Elected member/Chair

Paul J. Slivinski, Executive Director

Karen Medeiros, Asst. Ex. Director