

**Minutes of the Chicopee Retirement Board monthly meeting held on March 23, 2022 at 8:45 a.m. in the Auditor's Conference Room, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor, City Hall.**

**Present: Members Ference, Mailhott, Boronski, Riley & O'Shea  
Also Present: Laura Strickland for PRIM**

**The Chairman called the Regular Meeting to Order at 8:45 a.m.**

**A motion was made by Mr. Ference and seconded by Mr. Mailhott to accept and approve the Regular Meeting minutes from February 16, 2022. The minutes will be placed on file. ALL IN FAVOR.**

**A motion was made by Mr. Ference and seconded by Ms. Boronski to approve the monthly expense, refund/transfer warrant #03232022 and pension payroll warrant #02282022. ALL IN FAVOR.**

**PRIM Update** – Laura Strickland, Senior Client Service Officer was in attendance at today's meeting to update the Board on calendar year 2021 and to give an outlook on 2022 along with target ranges for 2022. PRIM makes their investments based on three parameters: return, risk & cost. They engineer on strategic, long term asset allocation strategy that hopefully will stand the test of a long term horizon. The Board thanked Ms. Strickland for attending today and for giving them this update.

**Executive Session:**

**A motion was made by Ms. Boronski and seconded by Mr. Ference to enter into Executive Session at 9:10 a.m. as per M.G.L. Chapter 30A Section 21 for the purpose of discussing a Medical Panel Review. A roll call vote was taken: Mr. Ference "yes", Mr. Mailhott "yes", Ms. Boronski "yes" Ms. Riley "yes" and Mr. O'Shea "yes".**

**The Board will then reconvene in open session once this meeting is concluded.**

**Executive session concluded at 9:18 a.m.**

**The Chairman called the regular meeting to order at 9:20 a.m.**

**Accidental Disability Application:**

**DeForest, Kevin - DPW Sanitation Department– Foreman/Recycling Truck Driver applied for an Accidental Disability Retirement due to injuries that he sustained on May 200, 2020 when he fractured his left tibia and ruptured his achillies. The Board received the Medical Panel opinions**

on Mr. DeForest. All three doctors opined that he is physically incapable of performing the essential duties of his job and that such incapacity is likely to be permanent. It is also opined that said incapacity is such as might be the natural and proximate result of the personal injury sustained on account of which retirement is claimed.

**After a discussion a motion was made by Ms. Boronski and seconded by Ms. Riley to accept the Medical Panel Findings and approve Mr. DeForest's Accidental Disability Retirement. All necessary paperwork will be forwarded to PERAC for their final approval. ALL IN FAVOR.**

(The board members will be notified when they need to log into PROSPER and verify how they voted on this application.)

**The following people applied for membership in the system according to statute:**

1. Gilberto J. Velez – Water – Group #1
2. Sonia Torres – School – Group #1
3. Roger F. Blasko – Building – Group #1
4. Melissa A. Garcia – DPW – Group #1
5. Paul J. Giguere – School – Group #1
6. Angela M. Ringman – Schools – Group #1
7. Bradley T. Harrington – FIRE – Group #4
8. Patrick R. Strepka – FIRE – Group #4
9. Margaret M. Drobiak – Schools – Group #1
10. Bradley M. Whalen – FIRE – Group #4
11. Joann Kasulinous – Schools – Group #1
12. Elizabeth A. Crawford – Schools – Group #1
13. Sandra M. Maroney – Schools – Group #1
14. Delmarina Lopez – City Council – Group #1
15. Cousuelo Carlson – Law – Group #1

**A motion was made by Ms. Boronski and seconded by Ms. Riley to approve the above mentioned individuals for membership into the System. ALL IN FAVOR.**

**The following people applied for Superannuation Retirement according to statute:**

Mead, Donald – Library – maintenance craftsman – wishes to retire on February 25, 2022 with 23 years and 3 months of creditable service.

Touchette, Philip –Department of Public Works – Head Pump Station Operator – wishes to retire on February 27, 2022 with 13 years of creditable service.

Surdyka, Janina – Registrar of Voters – Registrar – wishes to retire on March 18, 2022 with 34 years and 5 months of creditable service.

Balboni, Susan Marie – School Department – Paraprofessional – wishes to retire on June 5, 2022 with 20 years and 9 months of creditable service.

**A motion was made by Ms. Riley and seconded by Mr. Ference to approve the retirement applications. ALL IN FAVOR.**

**The following retirement calculations have been prepared for the Board's approval according to statute:**

Bednarz, Debra, Senior Clerk Typist, School Department – retired January 31, 2022 – \$14, 508.72 yearly pension.

Biela, Craig, Assistant Chief Operator, DPW - Waste Water Department – retired February 6, 2022 - \$60,678.72 yearly pension.

Meade, Donald, Maintenance Craftsman, Maintenance Department – retired February 25, 2022 - \$18,270.60 yearly pension.

Moreau, David, General Foreman, DPW – Water Department – retired March 4, 2022 - \$52,774.20 - yearly pension.

Touchette, Philip, Head Pump Station Operator, DPW – Public Utilities –retired February 27, 2022 - yearly pension \$14,079.24

Trznadel, Thomas, General Foreman, DPW - Parks Department – retired February 11, 2022 – yearly pension \$13,874.88.

**A motion was made by Mr. Mailhott and seconded by Ms. Boronski to approve the retirement re-calculation. ALL IN FAVOR.**

**The following refund has been prepared for the Board's approval according to statute:**

Chessey, Tiffany – Collector's Office – Clerk – resigned October 1, 2021 – total refund \$4,893.99.

Donzel, Patrick III – Forestry Department – Maintenance – terminated December 22, 2021 –

total refund \$11,283.99.

**A motion was made by Ms. Riley and seconded by Mr. Ference to approve the above mentioned refunds. ALL IN FAVOR.**

**The following transfers have been prepared for the Board's approval according to statute:**

Fitzpatrick, Stacey - School Department, Middle to High School Readiness Specialist, transferred to Hampshire County Retirement Board - \$31,822.69.

Labarre, Leah, Library Department - Library Associate transferred to Hampshire County Retirement Board - \$15,735.68.

Ayers, Emily, Library Department - Library Cataloger transferred to the State Board of Retirement - \$43,123.50.

Mendoza, Joseph, Police Department - Police Officer transferred to the State Board of Retirement - \$1,587.49.

Merchant, Elissa, School Department - Paraprofessional, transferred to Massachusetts Teachers Retirement System - \$3,166.59.

Wodecki, Sarah, School Department – Paraprofessional transferred to Massachusetts Teachers Retirement System – \$21,369.76.

St. Jean, Lauryn, School Department –Paraprofessional transferred to Massachusetts Teachers Retirement System - \$1,636.68.

Shwachman, Greta G., School Lunch Department - Farm to School Program Coordinator transferred to Greenfield Retirement System, - \$19,528.73.

Salamon, Brett, Police Department -Police Officer transferred to State Board of Retirement - \$36,596.98.

McAuliffe, Anthony, Water Department – Water System Maintenance transferred to Hampden County Retirement System - \$7,412.14.

**A motion was made by Mr. Ference and seconded by Mr. Mailhott to approve the above mentioned transfers. ALL IN FAVOR.**

**Waiver Request** – The Board received a letter from a member asking for a waiver in the amount

of \$5,733.64 for deductions that were not taken out of her paycheck while performing the duties of bus monitor, and crossing guard. She was told that this was discovered during our last audit and does not feel that she should have to pay this money prior to retirement when it was no fault of her own.

**A motion was made by Ms. Boronski and seconded by Mr. Mailhott to regretfully deny the member's waiver request. This was of no fault to anyone regarding this issue, it was found at our last audit and corrections needed to be made. ALL IN FAVOR.**

**Annual Statement for Calendar Year 2021** – The Annual Statement for Calendar Year 2021 has been completed and needs to be signed by the Members of the Board in order to submit it to PERAC. A copy of the report is in everyone's packet for them to review. The original copy needs to be signed by all board members so it can be submitted to PERAC.

**Fiscal Year 2023 Appropriation** – A copy of the Appropriation Letter for Fiscal Year 2023 that we received from PERAC is everyone's folder for your review. The appropriation letters need to be signed by all Board Members prior to being sent to the Housing Authority, Chicopee Electric, the Water Department and the Sewer Department.

**Election for the First (1<sup>st</sup>) Elected Board Member Schedule:**

There was an incorrect date regarding the mailing of the ballots on the original schedule that was approved by the Board, the following is the correct schedule as amended:

March 17, 2022 – Election Notice Mailed to all Retirees and Posted throughout the various  
City Departments

March 17, 2022 – Nomination Papers are available in the Retirement Board Office

April 29, 2022 - Deadline for Nomination Papers

**May 27, 2022** – If Election is necessary Ballots will be mailed out

June 15, 2022 – Election

June 16, 2022 – Post Election

**A motion was made by Ms. Boronski and seconded by Mr. Ference to amend the above mentioned schedule for the First Elected Member. ALL IN FAVOR.**

**Upcoming Board Meetings for Calendar Year 2022** –

April 27<sup>th</sup>, \*\*\*May 25<sup>th</sup>, June 22<sup>nd</sup>, July 27<sup>th</sup>, \*\*\*August 24<sup>th</sup>, \*\*\*September 28<sup>th</sup>, October 26,  
\*\*\*November 16<sup>th</sup>, December 14<sup>th</sup>.

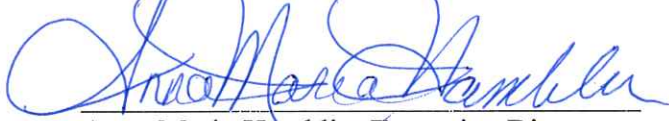
(\*\*\*denotes when an investment manager will be in attendance.)

**REPORTS AND NOTICES:**

Checking Account – February, 2022  
PERAC – Memo #9/2022 - Extension of Open Meeting Law Waivers  
PERAC Pension Newsletter #59  
PRIM Board Quarterly Update – fourth quarter of 2021

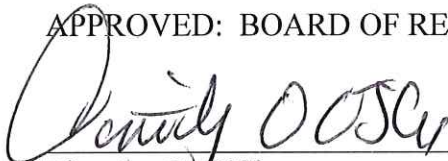
These reports were reviewed and placed on file.

**A motion was made by Mr. Mailhott and seconded by Mr. Ference to adjourn the meeting at 9:40 a.m. ALL IN FAVOR.**



Anna Maria Hamblin, Executive Director

APPROVED: BOARD OF RETIREMENT



Timothy O. O'Shea



Sharyn Riley



Paul Mailhott



David Ference



Debra Boronski