

Belmont Contributory Retirement Board

Minutes of Meeting of April 29, 2024

Meeting Conducted Pursuant to Section 40 of Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2023

Board Members Present: Thomas Gibson, Chair; Walter Wellman (Remote); Donna Tuccinardi; Ross Vona (Remote). Staff Present: Ryan Horan; Joseph Martin.

Guests Present: James H. Quirk, Jr., Esq., Board Attorney (Remote); Scott Driscoll, NEPC (Remote).

Identified Public Attendees: (Remote Attendees): Cyril Espanol, Ted Pendergast, Matt Taylor.

Mr. Gibson called the meeting to order at 9:15 am and introduced the Board Members and guests.

Motion by Mr. Vona, seconded by Ms. Tuccinardi, to approve the March 25, 2024 Board Meeting and Executive Meeting Minutes.

Roll Call:

Mr. Wellman	Yes
Mr. Gibson	Yes
Mr. Vona	Yes
Ms. Tuccinardi	Yes

The Motion passed.

Review of Investments with NEPC: Mr. Driscoll discussed the PRIM transition and reported those transfers that had taken place, future scheduled transfers, and the status of the illiquid assets. Mr. Gibson requested for review at the next Board meeting that NEPC prepare a presentation on post-PRIM transition performance reporting and tracking of the non-PRIM illiquid assets. He also requested NEPC to report the costs involved in the transition. Mr. Driscoll continued his presentation with a market update and individual manager performance over the past month.

Future Meeting Dates: May 20, 2024; June 24, 2024, July 29, 2024.

Mr. Driscoll exited the meeting at 9:40 AM.

Board Counsel Report: Attorney Quirk reported on the upcoming Supreme Judicial Court case of *Harnett v. CRAB and Boston Retirement Board*, which involves the interpretation of one of the two anti-spiking statutes and its application to an existing member of the retirement system. Mr. Quirk reported on several administrative decisions impacting military service purchases, noting that there are also legislative initiatives addressing the issues. PERAC has revised multiple CMRs recently, and this should lead to a review and discussion of the Board's existing supplemental regulations. Attorney Quirk advised of the recent *Dixson v. Lynn* CRAB decision impacting post-retirement earnings, and of the DALA decision in *Hannon v. Essex* limiting pensions of dual members where one pension is for disability.

Report of the Executive Director: Town Treasurer Leslie Davidson has informed the Board that the IRS has removed penalties for the 1099-R late filing. The 945 account issue remains pending with the IRS.

Mr. Horan continues to work with Mr. Greco and has completed the Board's 2023 Annual Statement for Submission to PERAC. A copy was made available to the Board, and staff have the supporting files saved if Board members would like to review further. This will be entered into PTG once approved by the Board and then will be uploaded into PROSPER, at which time the Board members can sign off and approve. The PERAC Audit has been ongoing since April 2nd, and the auditors will be on site this week. This week we should have a final report available on the 2 percent contribution issues with the School Department employees, which will be corrected through payroll deductions. There are a handful of members who owe a considerable amount of money, and staff will be reaching out directly to discuss how they would like to pay that back to the System. The issue should be resolved in May or at least before the end of the school year. All investment funds have been sent redemption requests and most should be moved tomorrow, on May 1st. All remaining liquid funds should be moved on June 1st.

The Board reviewed the Budget through April.

Update of Cash Books: Mr. Horan advised that the Cash Books for December have been submitted. The Annual Statement has been completed and will be submitted to PERAC later this afternoon. Bank reconciliation has been done internally through March 2024. The Town has also completed all bank reconciliations through March.

Approval of Expense and Payroll Warrants

Motion by Mr. Vona, seconded by Ms. Tuccinardi, To approve the April Expense Warrant and March and April Payroll Warrants.

Roll Call:

Mr. Wellman	Yes
Mr. Gibson	Yes
Mr. Vona	Yes
Ms. Tuccinardi	Yes

The Motion passed.

Correspondence Received: None.

Public Records Requests: Only two financial requests were received this month, both satisfied well within the statutory time frame.

PERAC Memos: PERAC Memo #11: Second Quarter training Schedule. PERAC Memo #12: Accounting Regulation changes. PERAC Memo #13: Board Travel Regulation changes and other CMR updates.

Retirement Applications

<u>Name</u>	<u>Ret Date</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Service</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Dept</u>	<u>Group</u>
Natasha (Natalya) Bochkov	05/31/2024	Web Development Specialist	56	21.7500	SuperAnn Option A	School	1
Philip Sullivan	06/28/2024		66	24.0000	SuperAnn	School	1

Motion by Mr. Vona seconded by Ms. Tuccinardi, to approve retirement benefit.

Roll Call:

Mr. Wellman	Yes
Mr. Gibson	Yes
Mr. Vona	Yes
Ms. Tuccinardi	Yes

The Motion passed.

Enrollment of New Members

<u>Name</u>	<u>Mem Date</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Department</u>	<u>Group</u>
Stenio Pereira	04/01/2024	Firefighter	Fire Department	4
Bridget Hoarty	04/01/2024	Children's Librarian	Library	1
James McGann	04/01/2024	Code Enforcement Officer	Community Development	1
Ryan Chapman	04/08/2024	Professional Aide	School Department	1
Kenneth Jacques	04/16/2024	Custodian	Facilities	1
Mafran DaSilva	04/16/2024	Custodian	Facilities	1
Yordano Osoria	04/16/2024	Custodian	Facilities	1
Cameron Delaney	04/16/2024	HMEO Laborer	Highway	1

Motion by Mr. Vona seconded by Ms. Tuccinardi, to approve new members and purchases of service.

Roll Call:

Mr. Wellman	Yes
Mr. Gibson	Yes
Mr. Vona	Yes
Ms. Tuccinardi	Yes

The Motion passed.

The Board acknowledged the passing of members of the system:

Member Deaths

<u>Name</u>	<u>Death Date</u>	<u>Option</u>	<u>Years of Service</u>	<u>Retirement Date</u>	<u>Gross Monthly Benefit</u>
Paul M Hanlon	04/06/2024	A	14.75	6/30/99	\$1635.00

Legal Services RFP: Mr. Gibson suggested tabling until next month when all Board members are available.

Motion by Mr. Vona seconded by Ms. Tuccinardi, to table the review of our Legal Services RFP until the May meeting.

Roll Call:

Mr. Wellman	Yes
Mr. Gibson	Yes
Mr. Vona	Yes
Ms. Tuccinardi	Yes

The Motion passed.

Chair's Report: Mr. Gibson reported that PERAC has maintained PRIM's assumed actuarial rate of return at 7%. PRIM has reported on its utilization of AI going forward. Mr. Gibson discussed the Heroes Act which would clarify when a military veteran would have the ability to purchase their military time. He also discussed the Governor's Municipal Relief Act which includes a section allowing for municipalities to deem certain positions critical, thereby allowing the hiring of retired employees without the statutory hours and earning limitations of Section 91. Legislation has been submitted that would exempt salary increases required by the Mass Equity Pay Act from anti-spiking. Legislation amending the default appointment of the Fifth Member of a retirement board is likely to be voted upon this summer. Mr. Gibson and Mr. Horan reported on the status of the 2024 system valuation. Mr. Gibson reviewed existing Board policies and new policies he has drafted, requesting input from the Board members at next month's meeting.

Motion by Ms. Tuccinardi, seconded by Mr. Vona to approve the 2023 Annual Statement.

Roll Call:

Mr. Wellman	Yes
Mr. Gibson	Yes
Ms. Tuccinardi	Yes
Mr. Vona	Yes

The Motion passed.

Motion by Mr. Vona, seconded by Ms. Tuccinardi, to adjourn the Meeting.

Roll Call:

Mr. Wellman	Yes
Mr. Gibson	Yes
Mr. Vona	Yes
Ms. Tuccinardi	Yes

The Motion passed.

The meeting adjourns at 10:45 AM.

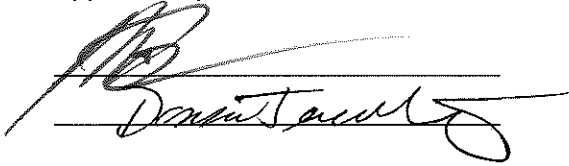
Documents Distributed:

April 29, 2024, Agenda
NEPC April 2024 Presentation
PERAC Memos #11, 12, 13

Respectfully Submitted,

Ryan Horan
Executive Director

Approved by the Retirement Board:



May 20, 2024
