

**HAMPDEN COUNTY REGIONAL
RETIREMENT BOARD**

**MINUTES OF MEETING
July 12, 2023**

The regular monthly meeting of the Hampden County Regional Retirement Board took place at the Agawam Corporate Center, 67 Hunt Street, Suite 116, Agawam, Massachusetts. The meeting was conducted in person at the Retirement Board office. The Chairman called the meeting to order at 10:03 A.M.

THOSE BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

- Karl J. Schmaelzle, Chairman/Treasurer present in office
- Robert Taylor, Member – present via zoom
- Patrick E. O’Neil, Member – present in office
- Michelle L. Hill, Member – present in office
- Thomas Sullivan Member– absent

BOARD STAFF IN ATTENDANCE:

- Atty. Alfredo ViVenzio -present in office
- Karen Martin, Executive Director - present in office
- Erica LeCours, Assistant Director - present in office

1. **MINUTES:** Mr. O’Neil made a motion to approve and sign the regular board meeting minutes from the June 14, 2023, board meeting. Mr. Taylor seconded the motion, and the roll call vote was Ms. Hill – Abstain; Mr. O’Neil – Yes; Mr. Taylor – Yes; Mr. Sullivan- Absent, and Chairman Schmaelzle – Yes. Motion approved 3-2.

2. **WARRANTS:** Mr. O’Neil made a motion to reaffirm the warrants issued June 30, 2023. Ms. Hill seconded the motion, and the roll call vote was Ms. Hill – Yes; Mr. O’Neil – Yes; Mr. Taylor – Yes; Mr. Sullivan- Absent, and Chairman Schmaelzle – Yes. Motion approved 4-1.

#26 Salary 1-5 includes overtime pay		\$ 28,583.80
#27 Board Member's Compensation		\$ 2,833.33
#28 Refunds and Transfers to Other Systems		\$ 380,050.62
#29 Monthly Expenses and 3(8)(c) Pmts		\$ 33,706.72
#30 A Monthly Retirement Allowances		\$ 4,826,768.00

3. **BALANCES:** The Board members reviewed copies of the checking & savings account statements from Peoples Bank that were provided in their packets along with reconciled records for the checking account. Mr. O’Neil made a motion to approve the account balances for March 31, 2023. Mr. Taylor seconded the motion, and the roll call vote was Ms. Hill - Yes; Mr. O’Neil – Yes; Mr. Taylor - Yes; Mr. Sullivan- Absent, and Chairman Schmaelzle - Yes. Motion approved 4-1.

BALANCES: 5/31/2023

PEOPLES BANK: - Vote to accept reconciled balances for March 31, 2023.

Money market Account Bal as of May 31, 2023		\$ 1,990,123.04
Checking Account as of May 31, 2023		\$ 570,780.37

4. **TRANSFER:** Mr. O'Neil made a motion to reaffirm the transfer on warrants for June 30, 2023. Ms. Hill seconded the motion, and the roll call vote was Ms. Hill - Yes; Mr. O'Neil - Yes; Mr. Taylor - Yes; Mr. Sullivan, - Absent, and Chairman Schmaelzle - Yes. Motion approved 4-1.

A.	Needed for warrants:	\$ 5,271,942.47
B.	Transfer for warrants: 6/30/2023	\$ 5,230,000.00
	From Peoples Bank Money Market Account to	
	Peoples Bank Checking Account	

5. **NEW ALLOWANCES:** Mr. O'Neil made a motion to approve the new retirement Allowances. Ms. Hill seconded the motion, and the roll call vote was Ms. Hill - Yes; Mr. O'Neil - Yes; Mr. Taylor - Yes; Mr. Sullivan- Absent; and Chairman Schmaelzle - Yes; Motion approved 4-1.

SUPERANNUATION -		
NAME	TOWN	DATE
Burke, Sandra	Palmer	5/1/2023
Rudinski, Jeffrey	Wilbraham	3/3/2023

6. **APPLICATIONS FOR RETIREMENT:** Ms. Hill made a motion to approve the new retirement applications. Mr. O'Neil seconded the motion, and the roll call vote was Ms. Hill - Yes; Mr. O'Neil - Yes; Mr. Taylor - Yes; Mr. Sullivan- Absent, and Chairman Schmaelzle - Yes; Motion approved 4-1.

Name	Unit	Date	Group	Age	Service
Herman, William	Chester	7/7/2023	1	59-00	20-06
Zanetti, Kathleen	Hampden	7/6/2023	4	66-08	26-06
Bak, Christine	Hamp/Wilb	6/30/2023	1	66-11	42-03
Dziedzic, John	Hamp/Wilb	6/30/2023	1	69-08	14-00
Marasa-Hoffmeier, Betty	Ludlow	7/21/2023	1	64-00	10 yrs 1 mon
Lamb, Kimberly	Monson	6/30/2023	1	64-02	16-05
Wuelfing, Anne	Monson	8/1/2023	1	67-00	18-11
Mancini, Patricia	Palmer	6/30/2023	1	66-04	15-08
Orzech, Mary Ellen	Palmer	6/30/2023	1	69-00	26-00
Frenette, Judith	Southwick/Tolland	6/30/2023	1	67-01	33-09

7. **INVESTMENT TRANSACTIONS:** The board reviewed the May 31, 2023 statement provided by the PRIT fund cash account and general allocation account as provided in the monthly packet each board member received prior to this meeting.

8. **PRIT FUND TRANSFER:** Ms. Hill made a motion to vote to affirm the transfer from PRIT to Money Market for \$3,000,000.00 to cover retiree payroll and expenses for the month of June 2023. Mr. O'Neil seconded the motion, and the roll call vote was Ms. Hill - Yes; Mr. O'Neil - Yes; Mr. Taylor - Yes; Mr. Sullivan - Absent; and Chairman Schmaelzle - Yes; Motion approved 4-1.

9. NOTICES OF INJURY: Mr. O'Neil made a motion to approve the Notices of Injury reports. Ms. Hill seconded the motion, and the roll call vote was Ms. Hill – Yes; Mr. O'Neil – Yes; Mr. Taylor – Yes; Mr. Sullivan – Absent; and Chairman Schmaelzle – Yes. Motion approved 4-1.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Unit</u>	<u>Department</u>	<u>Injury Date</u>
Whitney, Michael	Ludlow	Police	6/19/2023
Taggart, Michael	Southwick	Police	6/18/2023
Beane, Devan	Wilbraham	Fire	6/25/2023
Houghton, Christopher	Wilbraham	Fire	6/21/2023

10. NEW MEMBERS: Mr. O'Neil made a motion to approve and file the new members. Ms. Hill seconded the motion, and the roll call vote was Ms. Hill – Yes; Mr. O'Neil- Yes; Mr. Taylor – Yes; Mr. Sullivan- Absent; and Chairman Schmaelzle – Yes. Motion approved 4-1.

<u>Unit/Name</u>	<u>Group</u>	<u>Start Date</u>
<u>AGAWAM</u>		
BORELLI, Holly	1	5/22/2023
DOWERS, Stephanie	1	6/5/2023
GENTILE, Abbey	1	6/5/2023
GOON, Grace	1	6/5/2023
LAPIERRE, Madelyn	1	5/15/2023
ROY, Elizabeth	1	5/15/2023
<u>EAST LONGMEADOW</u>		
BELANGER, Elizabeth	1	5/11/2023
BRADY, Melissa	1	5/1/2023
GRANGER RAMOS, Megan	1	3/8/2023
<u>HAMPDEN/WILBRAHAM</u>		
JACQUE, Anika	1	5/8/2023
TRUE, Eric	1	5/9/2023
<u>LONGMEADOW</u>		
HICKS, Angela	1	6/26/2023
SPEAR, Griffin	4	6/5/2023

<u>Unit/Name</u>	<u>Group</u>	<u>Start Date</u>
LUDLOW		
STREMPEK, Kelly	1	6/5/2023
MONSON		
GAGNE, Brenda	1	5/8/2023
MARTINEZ, Elda	1	5/10/2023
PALMER		
HAYES, Matthew	1	6/19/2023
MASSE, Matthew	1	1/30/2023
WESTCOMM		
BOZENHARD, Emily	1	5/23/2023
CARLTON, Timothy	1	5/23/2023
COLON, Melvin	1	5/23/2023
DELA CRUZ, Joshua	1	5/23/2023
FARBER, Cassia	1	5/23/2023
MATOS RIVERA, Noslen	1	5/23/2023
WILBRAHAM		
TASSONE, Brittani	4	5/30/2023

11. **EXPENSE BREAKDOWN**—Board reviewed and filed the expense breakdown.

12. **DIRECTORS REPORT** – Ms. Martin reviewed the monthly directors’ report which the board members received in their monthly packets prior to the meeting.

13. **TRIAL BALANCE**—Mr. O’Neil made a motion to approve the trial balance from March 2023. Mr. Taylor seconded the motion, and the roll call vote was Ms. Hill – Yes; Mr. O’Neil – Yes; Mr. Taylor – Yes; Mr. Sullivan – Absent; Chairman Schmaelzle – Yes. Motion approved 4-1.

14. **COLA** – The Hampden County Regional Retirement Board received the 2/3 votes needed from their member units to adopt the extra 2% COLA increase for those eligible retirees and survivors. The retirees and survivors saw this increase in their June 30, 2023 pension payment.

15. **HAMPDEN COUNTY RETIREMENT BOARD COMMENTS**- Chairman Schmaelzle thanked Executive Director Martin for her hard work in helping him distribute information to the member units regarding the extra 2% COLA increase.

16. **PERAC MEMOS** – The Board reviewed and filed PERAC memo # 16.

17. **OLD BUSINESS** – No old business was discussed.

18. **NEW BUSINESS** – No new business was discussed.

19. **LEGAL UPDATE** – Attorney ViVenzio gave an update on the following cases:

- Sherry Souliere – Parties are waiting for a decision from CRAB
- Sagandorph – Parties are waiting for a decision from DALA
- Carr – DALA appeal no date set yet

20. **ACCIDENTAL DISABILITY**- Attorney Pikula held an administrative hearing with Joan Clark regarding her Accidental Disability Retirement application and found the application did not qualify for Accidental Disability benefits. Ms. Hill made a motion to deny the Accidental Disability application for Joan Clark. Mr. O’Neil seconded the motion, and the roll call vote was Ms. Hill – Yes; Mr. O’Neil – Yes; Mr. Taylor – Yes; Mr. Sullivan – Absent; Chairman Schmaelzle – Yes. Motion approved 4-1.

Joan Clark asked the board to withdraw her application for Ordinary Disability Retirement benefits. Ms. Hill made the motion to withdraw the Ordinary Disability application for Joan Clark and Mr. O’Neil seconded the motion. The roll call vote was Ms. Hill – Yes; Mr. O’Neil – Yes; Mr. Taylor – Yes; Mr. Sullivan – Absent; Chairman Schmaelzle – Yes. Motion approved 4-1.

21. **ACCIDENTAL DISABILITY** - Mr. O’Neil made a motion to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of # 1 to discuss the Accidental Disability Application for John Labrecque. Ms. Hill seconded the motion, and the roll call vote was Ms. Hill – Yes; Mr. O’Neil – Yes; Mr. Taylor – Yes; Mr. Sullivan – Absent; Chairman Schmaelzle -Yes. Motion approved 4-1.

The board returned from Executive Session at 11:01.

There being no further business before the Board, Ms. Hill made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:03 AM. Mr. O’Neil seconded the motion, and the roll call vote was Ms. Hill – Yes; Mr. O’Neil – Yes; Mr. Taylor – Yes; Mr. Sullivan- Absent: Chairman Schmaelzle – Yes. Motion approved 4-1.

