

**HAMPDEN COUNTY REGIONAL
RETIREMENT BOARD**

**MINUTES OF MEETING
October 5, 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 10:02 A.M.

THOSE BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

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

BOARD STAFF IN ATTENDANCE:

Atty. Edward Pikula -present in office
Karen Martin, Executive Director-present in office
Erica LeCours, Assistant Director - present in office

Mr. Taylor made a motion to take Agenda Item # 11 out of order. 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.

11. POWERS & SULLIVAN: Powers and Sullivan gave the retirement board an update on the 2022 Draft Audit. The audit was done on time and went very well. Mr. O’Neil made a motion to accept the 2022 Draft Audit. 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.

1. MINUTES: Mr. O’Neil made a motion to approve and sign the regular board meeting minutes from the September 6, 2023, board meeting. 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.

2. WARRANTS: Mr. O’Neil made a motion to reaffirm the warrants issued September 29, 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.

#41 Salary 1-4				\$	26,320.08
#42 Board Member's Compensation				\$	2,833.33
#43 Refunds and Transfers to Other Systems				\$	319,811.45
#44 Monthly Expenses				\$	30,268.97
#45 A Monthly Retirement Allowances				\$	4,447,702.84

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. Ms. Hill made a motion to approve the account balances for July 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: 8/31/2023		
PEOPLES BANK: - Vote to accept reconciled balances for July 2023		
Money market Account Bal as of August 31, 2023		\$ 13,366,334.29
Checking Account as of August 31, 2023		\$ 1,860,166.05

4. **TRANSFER:** Mr. O'Neil made a motion to reaffirm the transfer on warrants for September 29, 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.

A.	Needed for warrants:	\$ 4,826,936.67
B.	Transfer for warrants: 9/29/2023	\$ 4,800,000.00
	From Peoples Bank Money Market Account to	
	Peoples Bank Checking Account	

5. **NEW ALLOWANCES:** Mr. Taylor made a motion to approve the new retirement Allowances. 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.

<u>SUPERANNUATION -</u>		
<u>NAME</u>	<u>TOWN</u>	<u>DATE</u>
Roberts, Douglas	Granville	8/9/2023
Zanetti, Kathleen	Hampden	7/6/2023
Chaplin, Pamela	Longmeadow	7/3/2023
Lamb, Kimberly	Monson	6/30/2023
Mancini, Patricia	Palmer	6/30/2023
Orzech, Mary Ellen	Palmer	6/30/2023
Fox, Russell	Southwick	5/16/2023

6. **APPLICATIONS FOR RETIREMENT:** Mr. O'Neil made a motion to approve the new retirement applications. 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.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Unit</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Group</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Service</u>
Conlon, Jr. Richard	Agawam	9/30/2023	4	65-00	40-7
Hartmann, Ann Marie	Agawam	11/3/2023	1	62-00	36-05
Rogers, Howard N.	Agawam	10/1/2023	1	62-00	36-10
Courtney, Pamela B.	Hampden	9/15/2023	1	66-10	20-00
Stone, Jeanne	Hampden/Wilb	8/31/2023	1	78-05	14-07
Dubois, Rene H.	Ludlow	11/18/2023	4	64-11	41-09
Lebel, Penny G.	Ludlow	10/27/2023	1	70-04	12 yrs 6 mo
Leboeuf, Darren M.	Pathfinder	9/1/2023	1	52-05	33-02

7. **INVESTMENT TRANSACTIONS:** The board reviewed the August 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 Peoples Money Market account for \$3,300,000.00 to cover retiree payroll and expenses for the month of October 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:** There were no notices of injury reports.

10. **NEW MEMBERS:** Mr. Taylor made a motion to approve and file the new members. 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.

<u>Unit/Name</u>	<u>Group</u>	<u>Start Date</u>
AGAWAM		
DIRICO, Taylor	1	9/5/2023
DUPREY, Jenal	1	9/5/2023
GONZALEZ SANTOS, Jennife	1	9/5/2023
HOLMES, Caryn	1	9/1/2023
HUTCHINS, Heather	1	9/1/2023
KRAAS, Courtney	1	9/5/2023
LAPALME, Dominique	1	9/5/2023
LAO, Emily	1	9/11/2023
MALVEZZI, Isabell	1	9/11/2023
MOCHEVA, Dimitrina	1	9/1/2023
MURPHY, Audra	1	9/5/2023
SAGIR, Seham	1	9/5/2023
SAPELLI, Jaclyne	1	9/5/2023

HAMPDEN/WILBRAHAM		
LOMASCOLO, Amy	1	8/28/2023
HAMPDEN		
BLANCHARD, Daniel	1	9/25/2023
LONGMEADOW		
BRISEBOIS, Elizabeth	1	8/24/2023
CARNEY, Michelle	1	8/30/2023
CODDINGTON, Ian	1	9/7/2023
GRIGOROV, Leah	1	8/31/2023
LANGE, Cathy	1	8/24/2023
REILLY, John	1	8/28/2023
RIVERA, Samantha	1	9/1/2023
LUDLOW		
MORAN, Kelsey	1	8/30/2023
MONSON		
AYALA, Mayra	1	8/30/2023
BRAULT, William	1	8/28/2023
BROWN, Catie	1	8/25/2023
LOGIISI, Toni	1	8/25/2023
MILLER, Emma Kate	1	8/25/2023
SHREWSBURY, Samantha	4	7/24/2023
TAYLOR, Melissa	1	8/25/2023
PALMER		
CHALIFOUX-MILLER, Jill	1	8/28/2023
MARTIN, Andrew	1	9/4/2023
PATHFINDER		
COLE, Glenn	1	6/12/2023
SOUTHWICK		
RUNGE, Valerie	1	7/17/2023
SOUTHWICK/TOLLAND		
CESARINI, Michaella	1	8/30/2023
DAY, Ethan	1	8/30/2023
TATRO, Jennifer	1	8/28/2023
WILBRAHAM		
VENANCIO, Kyle	4	8/21/2023

12. **EXPENSE BREAKDOWN-** Mr. O'Neil made a motion to approve the new supplementary budget for 1/1/2023 to 12/31/2023. Mr. Taylor seconded the motion, and the roll call vote was Ms. Hill – Yes; Mr. O'Neil – Yes; Mr. Taylor – Yes; Mr. Sullivan – Absent; Chairman Schmaelzle – Yes. Motion approved 4-1.

13. **DIRECTORS REPORT** – Ms. Martin reviewed the monthly directors’ report which the board members received in their monthly packets prior to the meeting.
14. **TRIAL BALANCE** –Mr. O’Neil made a motion to approve the trial balance for July 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; Chairman Schmaelzle – Yes. Motion approved 4-1.
15. **MIA**- Mr. O’Neil made a motion to approve the new Medex rates that are effective 1/1/2024-12/31/2024. 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.
16. **HAMPDEN COUNTY RETIREMENT BOARD COMMENTS** – Chairman Schmaelzle informed the board that the office staff decided to leave the union and that he along with Mr. O’Neil will be reviewing contracts and any salary changes. Ms. Hill announced that her last day on the retirement board will be 12/31/2023. She has taken another job outside of Hampden County and will be working for another municipality.
17. **PERAC MEMOS** – The Board reviewed and filed PERAC memos # 19 and 20.
18. **OLD BUSINESS** – No old business was discussed.
19. **NEW BUSINESS** – No new business was discussed.
20. **LEGAL UPDATE** – Attorney Pikula suggested the board subpoena the bank records and beneficiary information regarding an overpayment of deceased retiree Lisa Squires. Mr. O’Neil made the motion to start the subpoena process. 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.
- Attorney Pikula will issue a memo with recommendations regarding the Hollup vs. Worcester Retirement Board decision to be put on the next agenda and discussed in Executive Session.
21. **ACCIDENTAL DISABILITY** – Attorney Pikula recommended the board make a motion to accept and continue the Accidental Disability application submitted by Yvette Alexio. Mr. O’Neil made the motion and Ms. Hill 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.
22. **ACCIDENTAL DISABILITY** – Attorney Pikula recommended the board make a motion to accept and continue the Accidental Disability Application submitted by Michael Gilrein. Mr. Taylor made the motion 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.
23. **ACCIDENTAL DISABILITY** – David Labombard Jr. received a letter from PERAC regarding excess earnings in 2022. Mr. Labombard Jr. proposed a payment arrangement with a lump sum paid up front. Attorney Pikula said he will prepare a letter of agreement and include the terms of working after retirement for Mr. Labombard Jr. Ms. Hill made a motion to accept the proposal. Mr. O’Neill 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.

There being no further business before the Board, Ms. Hill made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:05 a.m. 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 5-0.

Karl J. Schmaelzle
Michelle L. Hill

Pat E. Reed
Tim Sullivan