

**HAMPDEN COUNTY REGIONAL
RETIREMENT BOARD**

**MINUTES OF MEETING
December 6, 2023**

The regular monthly meeting of the Hampden County Regional Retirement Board took place at the Agawam Corporate Center, 67 Hunt Street, Suite 202, Agawam, Massachusetts. The meeting was conducted in person at the Retirement Board office. The Chairman called the meeting to order at 10:00 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 via zoom
Michelle L. Hill, Member – present in office
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 item #21 Legal Update 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.

21. **LEGAL UPDATE:** at 10:05 A.M. Mr. Taylor made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss strategy with respect to litigation, and to reconvene in Open Session. 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.

At 10:36 A.M. Mr. Taylor made a motion to end the Executive Session and return to Open Session. 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.

Mr. Taylor made a motion to continue the process, withdraw the appeal and remand the language from PERAC on the Labrecque case and to withdraw the appeal on the Sagendorph case. 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.

Mr. Taylor made a motion to take item # 22 and item # 23, Accidental Disability out of order. 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.

22. **ACCIDENTAL DISABILITY:** Mr. O’Neil made a motion to continue the application for Accidental Disability submitted by Frank Lucia and to request a medical panel from PERAC. 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.

23. **ACCIDENTAL DISABILITY:** Mr. O’Neil made a motion to continue the application for Accidental Disability submitted by Stuart Eggleston and to request a medical panel from PERAC. 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:** Ms. Hill made a motion to approve and sign the regular board meeting minutes from the November 1, 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. Taylor made a motion to reaffirm the warrants issued November 30, 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.

#51 Salary 1-5				\$	32,900.10
#52 Board Member's Compensation				\$	2,833.33
#53 Refunds and Transfers to Other Systems				\$	491,438.67
#54 Monthly Expenses				\$	27,630.98
#55 A Monthly Retirement Allowances				\$	4,531,191.04

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. Taylor made a motion to approve the account balances for September and October 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.

PEOPLES BANK: - Vote to accept reconciled balances for Sept and Oct 2023					
Money market Account Bal as of October 31,2023				\$	1,088,293.14
Checking Account as of October 31, 2023				\$	1,054,923.81

4. **TRANSFER:** Mr. Taylor made a motion to reaffirm the transfer on the warrants for November 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:			\$	5,085,994.12
B.	Transfer for warrants: 11/30/2023			\$	5,050,000.00
	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. 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
Conlon, Jr., Richard	Agawam	9/30/2023
Berthiaume, Pauline	Agawam	9/29/2023
Zouridakis, Jill	Agawam	8/31/2023
Courtney, Pamela	Hampden	9/15/2023
Thomas, Kenneth	Hamp/Wilb	10/6/2023
Donaldson, Brian	Longmeadow	9/26/2023
Carr, Cory	Ludlow	9/8/2023
Wuelfing, Anne E.	Monson	8/1/2023
Thielen, Jane	Montgomery	6/30/2023

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.

Name	Unit	Date	Group	Age	Service
Piubeni, Jeffrey	Agawam	1/20/2024	1	66-03	10 yrs 6 mo
Talbot, Linda	East Longmeadow	11/28/2023	1	66-10	14-08
Lachut, Geneva	Palmer	12/31/2023	1	67-08	22-10
Les, Catherine	Palmer	11/30/2023	1	65-09	21-10
Aldrich, Norma	Pathfinder	1/18/2024	1	61-00	34-01
Smith, Debra	Pathfinder	1/31/2024	1	64-11	37-05
Hatch, Linda	Wilbraham	11/18/2023	1	55-10	34-00

7. **INVESTMENT TRANSACTIONS:** The board reviewed the October 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 \$2,800,000.00 to cover retiree payroll and expenses for the month of November 2023. Mr. Sullivan 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. Taylor 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.

Name	Unit	Department	Injury Date
Goncalves, Alexander	Ludlow	Police	11/8/2023
Flynn, Scott	Wilbraham	Fire	11/13/2023

10. NEW MEMBERS: Mr. O’Neil made a motion to approve and file the new members. 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.

Unit/Name	Group	Start Date
<u>AGAWAM</u>		
GONCALVES, Niziah	1	10/10/2023
KNOX, Jacob	1	10/16/2023
YASAR, Tugba	1	10/12/2023
<u>BRIMFIELD</u>		
BOURQUE, Paul	1	9/21/2023
SCHNEIDER, Beth	1	9/11/2023
<u>EAST LONGMEADOW</u>		
PREMAN, Justin	1	10/23/2023
<u>GRANVILLE</u>		
DOIRON, Devon	1	10/2/2023
<u>HAMPDEN/WILBRAHAM</u>		
FITZGERALD, Melissa	1	9/19/2023
LOWE, Daysoinae	1	9/25/2023
MCQUILLAN, Carrie	1	9/27/2023
MICCOLI, Tamara	1	9/28/2023
MILANES, Marcell	1	9/21/2023
MIRISOLA, Tabitha	1	9/28/2023
MITCHELL, Alexandria	1	9/18/2023
<u>HOLLAND</u>		
PAIYAGALA, Lalanthi	1	10/13/2023
<u>LONGMEADOW</u>		
GALE, Andrew	4	10/15/2023
HOULE, Sandra	1	10/19/2023
KASHMAMAN, Brenda	1	10/2/2023
STANIEWICZ, Jean	1	11/6/2023

LUDLOW				
BROWN, Cody			1	8/28/2023
EBERLI, Olivia			1	7/31/2023
FOSTER, Jontay			1	8/29/2023
OGOLEY, Tracy			1	8/29/2023
SHARON, Megan			1	8/29/2023
PATHFINDER				
BALL, Ryan			1	10/16/2023
NOLET, Leigh			1	9/5/2023
QUINN, Michael			1	8/31/2023
SAVICKI, Kayla			1	9/11/2023
WARTON, Corrina			1	10/2/2023
SOUTHWICK				
BIELA, Martin			4	9/25/2023
LIGHTCAP, Meghan			1	5/22/2023
SOUTHWICK/TOLLAND				
GRABOWSKI, Stephen			1	10/9/2023
INGHAM, Kaylish			1	10/10/2023
KOZIKOWSKI, Katherine			1	11/20/2023
WESTCOMM				
ALVES, Paiton			1	9/20/2023
COTE, Amber			1	9/20/2023
GOVE, Andrew			1	9/20/2023
JACKSON, Alicia			1	9/20/2023
MAHAR, Paul			1	9/20/2023
PEREIRA, Shadow			1	9/20/2023
WILBRAHAM				
GRIMES, Evan			4	10/16/2023

11. **BOARD MEETING DATES FOR 2024-** Mr. Taylor made a motion to approve the Board Meeting dates for 2024. 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.

12. **EXPENSE BREAKDOWN-** The Board reviewed and filed the expense breakdown.

13. **CONTRACT –** Mr. Taylor made a motion to approve the new 3-year contract for the Executive Director and Staff due to leaving the UFCW with one change to be made under Article 6, Section 4-Sickleave. Article 6, Section 4 should read *“Upon Retirement, not upon termination”*. 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.

14. **2024 BUDGET** – Mr. O’Neil made a motion to approve the 2024 Budget. 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. **DIRECTORS REPORT** – Ms. Martin reviewed the monthly directors’ report which the board members received in their monthly packets prior to the meeting.

16. **TRIAL BALANCE** – Mr. O’Neil made a motion to approve the trial balance for September and October 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; Chairman Schmaelzle – Yes. Motion approved 4-1.

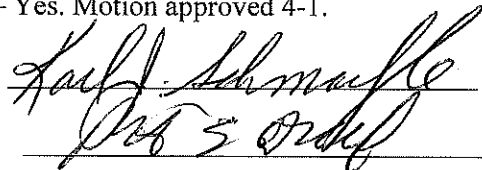
17. **HAMPDEN COUNTY RETIREMENT BOARD COMMENTS** – Chairman Schmaelzle thanked the staff for their hard work in 2023 and reported he was hearing good news on the new employee/retiree portal.

18. **PERAC MEMOS** – The Board reviewed and filed PERAC memos #23, 24, 25 and 26.

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

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

There being no further business before the Board, Ms. Hill made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:30 A.M. 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.



Karl J. Schmaelzle
Per 5 Order



