

**HAMPDEN COUNTY REGIONAL
RETIREMENT BOARD**

**MINUTES OF MEETING
May 1, 2024**

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 via phone
- Patrick E. O’Neil, Member – present in office
- Dawn M. Fonte, Member – present in office

BOARD STAFF IN ATTENDANCE:

- Atty. Edward Pikula -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 April 3, 2024, board meeting. Ms. Fonte seconded the motion, and the roll call vote was Ms. Fonte – Yes; Mr. O’Neil – Yes; Mr. Taylor – Yes; and Chairman Schmaelzle – Yes. Motion approved 4-0.

2. **WARRANTS:** Mr. O’Neil made a motion to reaffirm the warrants issued April 30, 2024. Ms. Fonte seconded the motion, and the roll call vote was Ms. Fonte – Yes; Mr. O’Neil – Yes; Mr. Taylor – Yes; and Chairman Schmaelzle – Yes. Motion approved 4-0.

#16 Salary 1-4				\$	28,958.12
#17 Board Member's Compensation				\$	2,583.33
#18 Refunds and Transfers to Other Systems				\$	429,132.68
#19 Monthly Expenses				\$	26,112.94
#20 A Monthly Retirement Allowances				\$	4,542,869.36
#20 B 3 8 C Payments				\$	297,766.69

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. Fonte made a motion to approve the account balances for March 29, 2024. Mr. O’Neil seconded the motion, and the roll call vote was Ms. Fonte - Yes; Mr. O’Neil – Yes; Mr. Taylor - Yes; and Chairman Schmaelzle - Yes. Motion approved 4-0.

PEOPLES BANK: - Vote to accept the reconciled Checking & M.M. accts for January and February 2024.					
Money market Account Bal as of March 29, 2024				\$	2,248,662.28
Checking Account Bal as of March 29, 2024				\$	2,506,609.20

4. **TRANSFER:** Ms. Fonte made a motion to reaffirm the transfer on the warrants for March 29, 2024. Mr. O'Neil seconded the motion, and the roll call vote was Ms. Fonte - Yes; Mr. O'Neil - Yes; Mr. Taylor - Yes; and Chairman Schmaelzle - Yes. Motion approved 4-0.

A.	Needed for warrants:	\$ 5,327,423.12
B.	Transfer for warrants: 3/29/2024	\$ 5,400,000.00
	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. Fonte seconded the motion, and the roll call vote was Ms. Fonte - Yes; Mr. O'Neil - Yes; Mr. Taylor - Yes; and Chairman Schmaelzle - Yes; Motion approved 4-0.

SUPERANNUATION -		
NAME	TOWN	DATE
Pope, Thomas	East Longmeadow	2/9/2024
St. Marie, Lori	Monson	3/1/2024
Zarenko, Dana	Palmer	2/16/2024
Cain, Phyllis-Recalc	Southwick/Tolland	9/4/2022
Faits, Catherine	Southwick/Tolland	9/11/2020
ACCIDENTAL DISABILITY		
Sanchez, Benjamin	Southwick Housing	2/22/2023

6. **APPLICATIONS FOR RETIREMENT:** Ms. Fonte made a motion to approve the new retirement applications. Mr. O'Neil seconded the motion, and the roll call vote was Ms. Fonte - Yes; Mr. O'Neil - Yes; Mr. Taylor - Yes; and Chairman Schmaelzle - Yes; Motion approved 4-0.

Name	Unit	Date	Group	Age	Service
Howe, Lisa M.	Agawam	6/27/2024	1	64-00	24-09
Gessay, Lorie A.	Agawam	6/30/2024	1	65-03	29-06
Payeur, Heidi A.	Agawam	6/21/2024	1	63-06	26-08
Callahan, Diane F.	East Longmeadow	6/30/2024	1	72-06	33-07
Barros, Elsa M.	Ludlow	5/31/2024	1	60-02	25-09
Silva, Mary Elizabeth	Ludlow	6/30/2024	1	65-01	10-10 Mo
Stinehart, Karl J.	Southwick	5/10/2024	1	63-01	35-00
Kiniry, Melanie C.	Southwick-Tolland Re	6/17/2024	1	64-08	12-2

7. **INVESTMENT TRANSACTIONS:** The board reviewed the March 29, 2024, 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. Fonte made a motion to vote to affirm the transfer from PRIT to Peoples Money Market account for \$3,500,000.00 to cover retiree payroll and expenses for the month of May 2024. Mr. O'Neil seconded the motion, and the roll call vote was Ms. Fonte – Yes; Mr. O'Neil – Yes; Mr. Taylor – Yes; and Chairman Schmaelzle – Yes; Motion approved 4-0.

9. NOTICES OF INJURY: Mr. O'Neil made a motion to approve the Notices of Injury reports. Mr. Taylor seconded the motion, and the roll call vote was Ms. Fonte – Yes; Mr. O'Neil- Yes; Mr. Taylor – Yes; and Chairman Schmaelzle – Yes. Motion approved 4-0.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Unit</u>	<u>Department</u>	<u>Injury Date</u>
Witek, Jeffrey	Wilbraham	Fire	3/6/2024

10. NEW MEMBERS: Ms. Fonte made a motion to approve and file the new members. Mr. Taylor seconded the motion, and the roll call vote was Ms. Fonte – Yes; Mr. O'Neil- Yes; Mr. Taylor – Yes; and Chairman Schmaelzle – Yes. Motion approved 4-0.

<u>Unit/Name</u>	<u>Group</u>	<u>Start Date</u>
<u>AGAWAM</u>		
MARTIN, Ryan	1	3/4/2024
MELANSON, Payten	1	11/13/2023
<u>BRIMFIELD</u>		
SHAYNA, Daniels	1	1/6/2020
HOUATCHANTHARA, Jason	1	12/22/2023
PELTON, Carrie	1	2/26/2024
<u>EAST LONGMEADOW</u>		
DEVENITCH, Abigail	1	3/4/2024
COLON, Cassandra	1	3/11/2024
KING, John	1	3/4/2024
<u>EAST LONGMEADOW HSNB. AUTHORITY</u>		
WINTERS, Scott	1	3/11/2024
<u>HAMPDEN</u>		
DOMINA, Brian	1	3/11/2024
<u>HAMPDEN/WILBRAHAM</u>		
DAVIS, Megan	1	3/18/2024
PILON, Patricia	1	3/6/2024
<u>HOLLAND</u>		
SULLIVAN, Vincent	4	1/4/2024
<u>LONGMEADOW</u>		
DIBBLE, Stephanie	1	3/11/2024
GIAMPIETRO, Robert	1	3/11/2024

<u>Unit/Name</u>	<u>Group</u>	<u>Start Date</u>
<u>LUDLOW</u>		
GOMES-SUSE, Maria	1	2/12/2024
PANLILIO, Olivia	1	2/12/2024
WILKINS, Quincy	1	2/1/2024
<u>PALMER</u>		
APONTE, Tyshauen	1	3/1/2024
CORDELLO, Toni	1	3/4/2024
<u>SOUTHWICK/TOLLAND</u>		
EKE, Anthony	1	3/6/2024
<u>WESTCOMM</u>		
BRUNELLE, Jonathan	1	3/18/2024
HANSEN, Molly	1	3/18/2024
HERNANDEZ, Aliyah	1	3/18/2024
<u>WILBRAHAM</u>		
FELIZ-CARROLL, Yoselyn	1	3/13/2024

11. **EXPENSE BREAKDOWN**- The 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. **MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT** – Ms. Fonte made a motion to accept the monthly post-closing financial reports for the month of December 2023. Mr. O’Neil seconded the motion, and the roll call vote was Ms. Fonte – Yes; Mr. O’Neil- Yes; Mr. Taylor – Yes; and Chairman Schmaelzle – Yes. Motion approved 4-0.

14. **ANNUAL STATEMENT** – Ms. Fonte made a motion to approve the 2023 Annual Statement. Mr. Taylor seconded the motion, and the roll call vote was Ms. Fonte – Yes; Mr. O’Neil- Yes; Mr. Taylor – Yes; and Chairman Schmaelzle – Yes. Motion approved 4-0.

15. **TRIAL BALANCE** – Mr. O’Neil made a motion to approve the trial balance for January and February 2024. Ms. Fonte seconded the motion, and the roll call vote was Ms. Fonte – Yes; Mr. O’Neil- Yes; Mr. Taylor – Yes; and Chairman Schmaelzle – Yes. Motion approved 4-0.

16. **ELECTION** – Mr. O’Neil made a motion to approve the open seat position on the board and hold an election per M.G.L. c. 34B and 840 CMR 7:00. Mr. Taylor seconded the motion, and the roll call vote was Ms. Fonte – Yes; Mr. O’Neil- Yes; Mr. Taylor – Yes; and Chairman Schmaelzle – Yes. Motion approved 4-0.

17. **FLEX SPENDING**- Ms. Fonte made a motion to table the flex spending for the staff. Mr. O’Neil seconded the motion, and the roll call vote was Ms. Fonte – Yes; Mr. O’Neil- Yes; Mr. Taylor – Yes; and Chairman Schmaelzle – Yes. Motion approved 4-0.

18. **CREDIT CARD** – Mr. O’Neil made a motion to table the discussion on the board getting a credit card. Mr. Taylor seconded the motion, and the roll call vote was Ms. Fonte – Yes; Mr. O’Neil- Yes; Mr. Taylor – Yes; and Chairman Schmaelzle – Yes. Motion approved 4-0.

19. **COLA** – Mr. Taylor made a motion to grant a 3% COLA increase for eligible retirees and survivors. Ms. Fonte seconded the motion, and the roll call vote was Ms. Fonte – Yes; Mr. O’Neil- Yes; Mr. Taylor – Yes; and Chairman Schmaelzle – Yes. Motion approved 4-0.

20. **WORKERS COMP INSURANCE** – Mr. O’Neil made a motion to review and vote on the new rates from MIA for workers comp and liability insurance for the period of 7/1/2024-6/30/2025. Ms. Fonte seconded the motion, and the roll call vote was Ms. Fonte – Yes; Mr. O’Neil- Yes; Mr. Taylor – Yes; and Chairman Schmaelzle – Yes. Motion approved 4-0.

21. **PERAC MEMOS** – No PERAC memos to review.

22. **HAMPDEN COUNTY RETIREMENT BOARD COMMENTS** – Chairman Schmaelzle thanked the director and staff for all their hard work.

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

24. **NEW BUSINESS** – No old business was discussed.

25. **LEGAL UPDATE** – Attorney Pikula updated the board on the DALA hearing for Carr regarding a settlement. He also informed the board that he was awaiting a decision regarding the Dombek case and was searching for a North Carolina attorney to assist in the survivor overpayment case.

26. **ACCIDENTAL DISABILITY** – Mr. O’Neil made a motion to approve and grant an Accidental Disability benefit to Bruce Sawyer. Ms. Fonte seconded the motion, and the roll call vote was Ms. Fonte – Yes; Mr. O’Neil- Yes; Mr. Taylor – Yes; and Chairman Schmaelzle – Yes. Motion approved 4-0.

There being no further business before the Board, Mr. Taylor made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:53 A.M. Mr. O’Neil seconded the motion, and the roll call vote was Ms. Fonte – Yes; Mr. O’Neil – Yes; Mr. Taylor – Yes; Chairman Schmaelzle – Yes. Motion approved 4-0.

