

**HAMPDEN COUNTY REGIONAL
RETIREMENT BOARD**

**MINUTES OF MEETING
August 23, 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 in office
Patrick E. O’Neil, Member – present via zoom
Dawn M. Fonte, Member – present in office

BOARD STAFF IN ATTENDANCE:

Atty. Alfredo ViVenzio -present in office
Karen Martin, Executive Director-present in office
Melissa Melendez, Administrative Assistant - present in office

1. **MINUTES:** Mr. O’Neil made a motion to approve and sign the regular board meeting minutes from the July 10, 2024, board meeting. Ms. Fonte seconded the motion, and the roll call vote was Ms. Fonte – Yes; Mr. O’Neil – Yes; Mr. Taylor – Abstained; and Chairman Schmaelzle – Yes. Motion approved 3-1.

Mr. Taylor made a motion to take agenda item # 22 out of order. 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.

22. **ACCIDENTAL DISABILITY** – Mr. Taylor made a motion to approve the application for Accidental Disability submitted by Raymond Circe and request that PERAC convene a medical panel. 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.

Mr. Taylor made a motion to take agenda item # 24 out of order. 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.

24. **ACCIDENTAL DISABILITY** – Mr. Taylor made a motion to approve an Accidental Disability Retirement benefit for Kenneth Tetreault. 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. The Retirement Board will send a letter to the workers comp insurer to check for third party settlement.

2. **WARRANTS:** Mr. O’Neil made a motion to reaffirm the warrants issued July 31, 2024. 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.

#31 Salary 1-4		\$ 26,475.19
#32 Board Member's Compensation		\$ 2,583.33
#33 Refunds and Transfers to Other Systems		\$ 238,773.24
#34 Monthly Expenses		\$ 86,402.59
#35 A Monthly Retirement Allowances		\$ 4,760,762.53
#35 B 3 (8) (c)		\$ 31,700.87

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 June 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.

PEOPLES BANK: - Vote to accept the reconciled Checking Acct for June 30, 2024		
Money market Account Bal as of June 28, 2024		\$ 1,285,646.69
Checking Account Bal as of June 28, 2024		\$ 1,090,723.10

4. **TRANSFER:** Mr. O'Neil made a motion to reaffirm the transfer on the warrants for July 31, 2024. 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.

A.	Needed for warrants:	\$ 5,146,697.75
B.	Transfer for warrants: 7/31/2024	\$ 5,150,000.00
	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. 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.

NAME	TOWN	DATE	
Krieg, Tonya	Agawam	6/7/2024	
Labrecque, John P.	Agawam	3/14/2022	
Tremblay, Jeremy	Chester	5/31/2024	
Milliken, Deborah J.	East Long	6/3/2024	
Quirk, Samantha	Longmeadow	6/14/2024	
Barros, Elsa M.	Ludlow	5/31/2024	
Jorge, Rosemary E.	Ludlow	6/14/2024	
Belanger, Lori J.	Ludlow	5/31/2024	
Francis Piechota	Palmer	7/31/2024	(Survivor of Tammy Piechota)
Tardif, Carole J.	Wilbraham	5/24/2024	

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

<u>Name</u>	<u>Unit</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Group</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Service</u>
Edward B. Connor	Agawam	7/9/2024	4	58-11	38-10
Ellen G. Jergensen	Agawam	8/31/2024	1	65-00	22-05
Suzanne Stone	Agawam	9/9/2024	1	63-00	10-10
Donald B. Maki	East Longmeadow	9/2/2024	1	69-02	16-00
Veronica Provencio-Mendoza	HWRSD	7/12/2024	1	60	10-05
M. Teresa Silva	Ludlow	9/27/2024	1	62-05	20-00
Cheryl A. Snyder	Ludlow	10/1/2024	1	65-01	13-01
Rafael Irizarry	Ludlow	9/27/2024	1	70-11	10-00
Sonia Diamanti	Palmer	8/15/2024	1	65-11	13-08
Dawn M. LaBarre	STRSD	8/1/2024	1	66-04	27-04

7. **INVESTMENT TRANSACTIONS:** The board reviewed June 30, 2024, statements 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:** Mr. Taylor made a motion to vote to reaffirm the transfer from Peoples Money Market account to PRIT for \$24,000,000.00. 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.

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. Mr. Taylor inquired if the member on the injury report had any time lost.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Unit</u>	<u>Department</u>	<u>Injury Date</u>
Vigneault, Brandon	Ludlow	Police	7/17/2024

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

<u>Unit/Name</u>	<u>Group</u>	<u>Start Date</u>
AGAWAM		
Grencho, Tony	1	7/15/2024
Magnolia, Mikala	1	5/20/2024
Sypek, Steven	1	7/1/2024
BLANDFORD		
Martin, Joann	1	2/23/2024

<u>Unit/Name</u>	<u>Group</u>	<u>Start Date</u>
<u>EAST LONGMEADOW</u>		
Agee, Alexandra	1	7/15/2024
Leydon, James	1	7/1/2024
Moylan, Colin	1	4/30/2024
Zaugg, Michelle	1	7/15/2024
<u>HAMPDEN/WILBRAHAM</u>		
Cummings, Francine	1	6/17/2024
<u>HOLLAND</u>		
Gumlaw, Jennifer	1	7/5/2024
Vilandro, Luke	1	7/1/2024
<u>LUDLOW</u>		
Eggleston, Stephen	1	4/29/2024
<u>MONSON</u>		
Daniels, James	1	7/1/2024
<u>PALMER</u>		
Knight, Iain	1	7/7/2024
Mock, Steffon	1	7/8/2024
<u>PALMER FIRE DISTRICT</u>		
Smith, Trent	1	7/1/2024
<u>RUSSELL</u>		
Lewinski, Craig	1	5/9/2024
<u>SOUTHWICK</u>		
Chambers, Nickolas	4	4/29/2024
Simonds, Caileen	1	6/3/2024
<u>WILBRAHAM</u>		
Beaudry, Taylor	4	7/15/2024
Williams, Scott	1	7/1/2024

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

12. **STAFF PAYROLL** – Mr. Taylor made a motion to approve the weekly payrolls issued to the staff for the month of August 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.

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. Taylor made a motion to approve the trial balance for June 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.

15. **PBI** – Mr. Taylor made a motion to terminate the contract with PBI at the end of the year, 12/31/2024. 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. Mr. Taylor made a motion to engage in a contract with ABL Tech starting 10/01/2024. 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. **PERAC MEMOS** –The Board reviewed and filed PERAC memos #19-22.

17. **ELECTION** – Mr. O’Neil recused himself from voting on the open fifth member position. Mr. Taylor made a motion to discuss and approve the election process (M.G.L. c. 34B and 840 CMR 7:00) and timeline for filling the open board member positions and the fifth member position. Ms. Fonte seconded the motion, and the roll call vote was Ms. Fonte – Yes; Mr. O’Neil- Abstained; Mr. Taylor – Yes; and Chairman Schmaelzle – Yes. Motion approved 3-1.

18. **HAMPDEN COUNTY RETIREMENT BOARD COMMENTS** – Chairman Schmaelzle talked about the new legislation regarding the HERO’s Act and Veterans Buyback.

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

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

21. **LEGAL UPDATE** – No legal update was discussed.

23. **SECTION 91A** – Ms. Fonte made a motion to table discussion regarding 2 Accidental Disability Retirees’ failure to provide annual statements of earned income for Calendar Year 2023 pursuant to Chapter 32 Section 91A until next month’s board meeting. 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.

There being no further business before the Board, Mr. Taylor made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:15 A.M. Ms. Fonte 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.






