

**HAMPDEN COUNTY REGIONAL
RETIREMENT BOARD**

**MINUTES OF MEETING
November 6, 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 10:07 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
- Dawn M. Fonte, Member – present via phone

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. Taylor made a motion to approve and sign the regular board meeting minutes from the October 2, 2024, board meeting. 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.

2. **5TH BOARD MEMBER APPOINTMENT:** Mr. Taylor made a motion to re-appoint Patrick O’Neil to the fifth member position to serve a 5-year term commencing December 2, 2024, to December 1, 2029. 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.

Ms. Fonte left the board meeting at 10:09 A.M.

3. **SEGAL:** Lisa VanDermark from Segal gave a presentation to the board and listened to the board’s input regarding a funding schedule. Mr. O’Neil made a motion to accept the administrative expense and assumption schedule presented by Segal. Mr. Taylor seconded the motion, and the roll call vote was Ms. Fonte – Absent; Mr. O’Neil – Yes; Mr. Taylor – Yes; and Chairman Schmaelzle – Yes. Motion approved 3-1.

4. **WARRANTS:** Mr. Taylor made a motion to reaffirm the warrants issued October 31, 2024. Mr. O’Neil seconded the motion, and the roll call vote was Ms. Fonte – Absent; Mr. O’Neil – Yes; Mr. Taylor – Yes; and Chairman Schmaelzle – Yes. Motion approved 3-1.

#46 Salary 1-5				\$	36,039.25
#47 Board Member's Compensation				\$	2,583.33
#48 Refunds and Transfers to Other Systems				\$	456,560.12
#49 Monthly Expenses				\$	28,245.92
#50 A Monthly Retirement Allowances				\$	4,699,253.00

5. **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 September 30, 2024. Mr. Taylor seconded the motion, and the roll call vote was Ms. Fonte - Absent; Mr. O'Neil - Yes; Mr. Taylor - Yes; and Chairman Schmaelzle - Yes. Motion approved 3-1.

PEOPLES BANK: - Vote to accept the reconciled Checking Acct for Sept 30, 2024		
Money market Account Bal as of Sept 30, 2024		\$ 4,257,206.98
Checking Account Bal as of Sept 30, 2024		\$ 1,079,933.69

6. **TRANSFER:** Mr. O'Neil made a motion to reaffirm the transfer on the warrants for October 31, 2024. Mr. Taylor seconded the motion, and the roll call vote was Ms. Fonte - Absent; Mr. O'Neil - Yes; Mr. Taylor - Yes; and Chairman Schmaelzle - Yes. Motion approved 3-1.

A.	Needed for warrants:	\$ 5,222,681.62
B.	Transfer for warrants: 10/31/2024	\$ 5,223,000.00
	From Peoples Bank Money Market Account to	
	Peoples Bank Checking Account	

7. **NEW ALLOWANCES:** Mr. Taylor made a motion to reaffirm the new retirement allowances. Mr. O'Neil seconded the motion, and the roll call vote was Ms. Fonte - Absent; Mr. O'Neil - Yes; Mr. Taylor - Yes; and Chairman Schmaelzle - Yes; Motion approved 3-1.

NAME	TOWN	DATE
Jergensen, Ellen G.	Agawam	8/31/2024
Stone, Suzanne	Agawam	9/9/2024
Maki, Donald	East Longmeadow	9/2/2024
Mott, Kelly	Holland	9/6/2024
Krawczyk, Kathy	HWRSD	9/3/2024
Beaulieu, Donald	Longmeadow	Resubmit 10/26/2018
Ahmeti, Xhemail	Longmeadow	9/1/2024
Villano, Eileen	Ludlow	Resubmit 2/25/2022
Irizarry, Rafael	Ludlow	9/27/2024
Massi, David	Southwick	Resubmit 06/06/2023

NAME	TOWN	DATE
McLaughlin, Craig	Southwick/Tolland	Resubmit 12/15/2022
Smith, Coleen	Southwick/Tolland	Resubmit 06/30/2022
Ward, Nadine	Southwick/Tolland	Resubmit 06/17/2022
LaBarre, Dawn	Southwick/Tolland	8/1/2024
Poulo, Anne	Southwick/Tolland	9/13/2024
ACCIDENTAL DISABILITY		
Tetreault, Kenneth A.	Ludlow	9/27/2024

8. **APPLICATIONS FOR RETIREMENT:** Mr. Taylor made a motion to approve the new retirement applications. Mr. O'Neil seconded the motion, and the roll call vote was Ms. Fonte – Absent; Mr. O'Neil – Yes; Mr. Taylor – Yes; and Chairman Schmaelzle – Yes; Motion approved 3-1.

Name	Unit	Date	Group	Age	Service	
Jergensen, Ellen G.	Agawam	8/31/2024	1	65-00	22-02	*REVISED
Gaughan, Kim M.	Agawam	12/20/2024	1	62-09	24-03	
Kerr, Pamela R.	Agawam	1/10/2025	1	60-01	40-07	
Miarecki, Kim M.	Agawam	12/6/2024	1	65-09	30-01	
Brown, Ronald J.	Agawam	12/31/2024	4	62-10	31-05	
Pease, MaryAnn	Chester	11/1/2024	1	69-10	15-00	
Pescetta, Judy J.	East Longmeadow	1/10/2025	1	69-05	13-03	
Manley, Elizabeth B.	Monson	11/30/2024	1	69-11	37-01	
Kuszewski, Sue A.	Palmer	10/17/2024	1	55-01	19-02	
Costa, Janet M.	Wilbraham	11/27/2024	1	62-00	25-02	

9. **INVESTMENT TRANSACTIONS:** The board reviewed 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.

10. **PRIT FUND TRANSFER:** Mr. O'Neil made a motion to vote to reaffirm the transfer from PRIT to Peoples Money Market account for \$4,000,000.00. Mr. Taylor seconded the motion, and the roll call vote was Ms. Fonte – Absent; Mr. O'Neil – Yes; Mr. Taylor – Yes; and Chairman Schmaelzle – Yes; Motion approved 3-1.

11. **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 – Absent; Mr. O'Neil – Yes; Mr. Taylor – Yes; and Chairman Schmaelzle – Yes; Motion approved 3-1.

Name	Unit	Department	Injury Date
Laskow, Megan	East Longmeadow	Human Resources	7/18/2023
Da Casta, Geovanny	Ludlow	Police	10/18/2024
Roxo, Andrew	Ludlow	Police	10/18/2024
Goodchild, Timothy	Ludlow	Police	10/20/2024
Whitney, Michael	Ludlow	Police	9/18/2024

12. **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. Fonte – Absent; Mr. O'Neil- Yes; Mr. Taylor – Yes; and Chairman Schmaelzle – Yes. Motion approved 3-1.

AGAWAM		
Bach, Amber	1	8/23/2024
Bernier, Abigail	1	9/3/2024
Bonci, Kristina	1	9/3/2024
Demirhan, Ayse	1	9/3/2024
Giebner, Hallie	1	9/3/2024
Gladding, Katelyn	1	9/3/2024
Heffernan, Chloe	1	9/3/2024
Iziota, Michael	1	9/9/2024
Jedziniak, Mary	1	9/3/2024
Katzki, William	1	9/3/2024
Lancour, Ashley	1	9/3/2024
Lancour, Dina	1	9/9/2024
Martin, Emma	1	9/16/2024
Mendrala, Harrison	1	9/3/2024
Niemiec, Elizabeth	1	9/3/2024
Randall, Tammy	1	8/27/2024
Reynolds, Kayla	1	9/11/2024
Stewart, Waniekie	1	9/3/2024
Terramagra, Cheryl	1	7/1/2024
Tudryn, Jessica	1	9/3/2024
BLANDFORD		
Avery III, Gordon	1	7/1/2024
Ferrera, Cristina	1	7/8/2024
EAST LONGMEADOW		
Bouchard, Kerry	1	8/26/2024
Rasmussen, Kirsten	1	9/16/2024

<u>Unit/Name</u>	<u>Group</u>	<u>Start Date</u>
<u>HAMPDEN/WILBRAHAM</u>		
Carvalho, Jessica	1	8/27/2024
Grondin, Gerard	1	9/23/2024
Hedges, Christina	1	8/27/2024
Rey, Lamarre	1	8/28/2024
Reyes, Dyani-Janelle	1	8/26/2024
Rowe, Laura	1	8/27/2024
Yeasley, Hannah	1	8/27/2024
<u>LONGMEADOW</u>		
Black, Mary	1	9/3/2024
Gordon, Annette	1	9/9/2024
<u>LUDLOW</u>		
Bilodeau, Jennifer	1	8/12/2024
Fellen, Melissa	1	8/27/2024
Hamel, Brielle	1	8/26/2024
Parker, Carolyn	1	8/27/2024
Pfister, Tracie	1	8/26/2024
Picard, Rachael	1	8/26/2024
Underwood, Amy	1	8/21/2024
<u>PALMER</u>		
Klein, Katrina	1	7/1/2024
<u>SOUTHWICK/TOLLAND</u>		
Fugiel, Aubrey	1	8/26/2024
Houle, Gabrielle	1	8/26/2024
Isaacson, Brian	1	8/28/2024
<u>WALES</u>		
Jund, Kara	1	7/29/2024

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

14. **STAFF PAYROLL** – Mr. Taylor made a motion to approve the weekly payrolls issued to the staff for November 2024. Mr. O’Neil seconded the motion, and the roll call vote was Ms. Fonte – Absent; Mr. O’Neil- Yes; Mr. Taylor – Yes; and Chairman Schmaelzle – Yes. Motion approved 3-1.

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. Taylor made a motion to approve the trial balance for September 30, 2024. Mr. O’Neil seconded the motion, and the roll call vote was Ms. Fonte – Absent; Mr. O’Neil- Yes; Mr. Taylor – Yes; and Chairman Schmaelzle – Yes. Motion approved 3-1.

17. **PERAC MEMOS** – The Board reviewed and filed PERAC memos #25, 26, 27 and 28.

Mr. Taylor made a motion to take agenda item # 24 out of order. Mr. O’Neil seconded the motion, and the roll call vote was Ms. Fonte – Absent; Mr. O’Neil- Yes; Mr. Taylor – Yes; and Chairman Schmaelzle – Yes. Motion approved 3-1.

24. **LEGAL UPDATE** – Attorney Pikula recommended that the board approve a refund application submitted by Kathleen Jorgensen from the Southwick/Tolland Regional School District. Betsy Tetrault, Human Resource Specialist with the Southwick/Tolland Regional School District attended the meeting via zoom and said the school district consulted with their attorney and they do not contest the withdrawal. Mr. O’Neil made a motion to approve the application for withdrawal. Mr. Taylor seconded the motion, and the roll call vote was Ms. Fonte – Absent; Mr. O’Neil- Yes; Mr. Taylor – Yes; and Chairman Schmaelzle – Yes. Motion approved 3-1.

Attorney Pikula informed the board that Mr. Stinehart from the Town of Southwick appealed his retirement calculation to DALA and DALA issued an order to show cause. Attorney Pikula received a request for response from the magistrate at DALA.

Daniel Carr received a settlement after Disability Retirement Approval and did not pay the retirement board a portion. Attorney ViVenzio and Carr’s attorney came to an agreement to suspend payments until \$25,000.00 is paid back. DALA overturned the agreement. Attorney Pikula will be appealing to CRAB.

18. **MIA RATES** – Mr. O’Neil made a motion to approve the new Medicare Rates for 2025. Mr. Taylor seconded the motion, and the roll call vote was Ms. Fonte – Absent; Mr. O’Neil- Yes; Mr. Taylor – Yes; and Chairman Schmaelzle – Yes. Motion approved 3-1.

19. **HERO ACT** – Mr. Taylor made a motion to allow members of the retirement system who *are veterans* to purchase their Veterans Buyback via payment plan. Mr. O’Neil seconded the motion, and the roll call vote was Ms. Fonte – Absent; Mr. O’Neil- Yes; Mr. Taylor – Yes; and Chairman Schmaelzle – Yes. Motion approved 3-1.

20. **HAMPDEN COUNTY RETIREMENT BOARD COMMENTS** – Chairman Schmaelzle congratulated Patrick O’Neil on being re-appointed as the fifth member of the retirement board and Robert Taylor on his re-election. He also thanked the advisory council for re-appointing Dawn Fonte to the board and congratulated Steven Castelli for becoming a new board member.

21. **ELECTION RESULTS** – The Advisory Council certified the nomination papers for Robert Taylor and Steven Castelli who were running for the Hampden County Retirement Board Members Representatives commencing January 1, 2025-December 31, 2027. The Advisory Council also nominated Dawn Fonte as the Advisory Council Representative for the Hampden County Retirement Board commencing January 1, 2025-December 31, 2027.

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

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

There being no further business before the Board, Mr. Taylor made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:35 A.M. Mr. O'Neil seconded the motion, and the roll call vote was Ms. Fonte - Absent; Mr. O'Neil - Yes; Mr. Taylor - Yes; Chairman Schmaelzle - Yes. Motion approved 3-1.

Karl Schmaelzle
Mr. E. O'Neil
Mr. Taylor

Dawn Fonte