

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD SEPTEMBER 20, 2023

Chairman Thomas V. Thibaut, Jr. called the meeting of the Watertown Contributory Retirement Board to order at approximately 8:30 AM, Administration Building, 149 Main Street, Council Chamber. Board Members present at the meeting were, Chairman Thibaut; Mr. John Loughran; Ms. Megan Langan; Mr. Domenic Duke Arone and Ms. Kathleen Kiely-Becchetti. Staff members present were Executive Director Kayla J. Sheehan and Administrative Assistant, Lisa DiPietrantonio. Attorney Gerry McDonough was in attendance. Mr. Richard Carey of Fiducient Advisors gave the investment review.

Confirm Next Monthly Meeting:

The next monthly meeting of the Board was scheduled for Thursday, October 19, 2023

Executive Session Under Purpose 7 of the Open Meeting Law: To comply with, or act under the authority of, any...law..., that law being Exemption (c) of the Public Records Law (G.L. c. 4, s. 7(26)(c)) exemption personnel and medical files or information and other materials or data relating to a specifically named individual, the disclosure of which may constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.

Accidental Disability Application:

A MOTION WAS MADE AND SECONDED TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION. A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN AND RECORDED AS FOLLOWS:

Mr. Arone	-	YES
Mr. Loughran	-	YES
Ms. Langan	-	YES
Ms. Kiely-Becchetti	-	YES
Chairman Thibaut	-	YES

It was noted that the Board would return to open session at the conclusion.

A MOTION WAS MADE AND SECONDED TO APPROVE THE ADR APPLICATION FILED SUBJECT TO PERAC APPROVAL

Mr. Arone	-	YES
Mr. Loughran	-	YES
Ms. Langan	-	YES
Ms. Kiely-Becchetti	-	YES
Chairman Thibaut	-	YES

A MOTION WAS MADE AND SECONDED TO RETURN TO OPEN SESSION. A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN AND RECORDED AS FOLLOWS:

Mr. Arone	-	YES
Mr. Loughran	-	YES
Ms. Langan	-	YES
Ms. Kiely-Becchetti	-	YES
Chairman Thibaut	-	YES

It was agreed that the aforesaid votes would be noted in the minutes of open session.

Examination of Minutes: From meeting held on Thursday August 17, 2023

A MOTION WAS MADE AND SECONDED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS WRITTEN. SO VOTED

Note Deaths of Members/Beneficiaries:

**A MOTION WAS MADE AND SECONDED TO NOTE THE DEATHS OF MEMBERS & BENEFICIARIES
AND TO APPROVE PAYMENT OF FINAL BENEFITS** **SO VOTED**

Review PERAC Correspondence:

MEMOS:

#19/2023 09/07/23 Tobacco Company List

Review Applications for Benefits:

Superannuation Retirement:

**A MOTION WAS MADE AND SECONDED TO APPROVE APPLICATION FOR SUPERANNUATION
RETIREMENT**

SO VOTED

Applications for Membership:

A MOTION WAS MADE AND SECONDED TO APPROVE APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP

SO VOTED

Transfers of Deductions to Other Retirement Systems:

**A MOTION WAS MADE AND SECONDED TO APPROVE TRANSFERS OF DEDUCTIONS TO OTHER
RETIREMENT SYSTEMS**

SO VOTED

Refunds of Accumulated Deductions:

A MOTION WAS MADE AND SECONDED TO APPROVE REFUND OF ACCUMULATED DEDUCTIONS.

SO VOTED

Review Warrants:

A MOTION WAS MADE AND SECONDED TO APPROVE THE WARRANTS AS AMENDED.

SO VOTED

Director's Report:

Cash Books for periods ending July 31, 2023

The Board reviewed and approved the following reports for period ending July 31, 2023 which were prepared by Executive Director Sheehan and submitted to PERAC.

- Cash Receipts Journal
- Cash Disbursements Journal
- Adjustments Journal
- Trial Balance
- General Ledger
- Cash Reconciliations for accounts #1040, #1041 & #1043

It was reported that there is one retiree who has still not complied with PERAC's 91A requirement. It was decided that Chairman Thibaut would reach out to this retiree and try to get them to return the needed documentation to PERAC.

Executive Director Sheehan reported that an application for Cyber Insurance has been submitted to Lydon & Murphy in order to have a "cyber assessment" completed.

2020 – 2021 audits being completed by Marcum, LLP:

In was reported that the 2020 Audit has been completed and the final PDF should be sent over shortly.

The 2021 audit is mostly complete, but they need some reports to be sent over from Fiducient Advisors before they can finish. Executive Director Sheehan will reach out to Richard Carey from Fiducient to send over the needed reports.

The 2022 audit is at a standstill until the GASB report and 01/01/23 actuarial valuation is completed.

Committee Reports:

MOTION TO APPROVE 2023 SUMMER NEWSLETTER PENDING EDITS

SO VOTED

Old/Unfinished Business:

Board to Review Actuarial Valuation for 01/01/23

The Board reviewed and discussed the various funding scenarios provided to them by actuary Dan Sherman. It was decided to have Mr. Sherman prepare additional scenarios to be reviewed by the Board at their next meeting as well as invite him to attend and go over the scenarios in person. Jack Loughran will reach out to Mr. Sherman to discuss the different scenarios that the Board is looking for.

New Business:

There was no new business discussed.

Legal Update:

Attorney McDonough gave an update on a recent DALA decision regarding the Veteran's bill. The decision looks into the language of the statute referring to when a member should be notified of the benefit and if they need to be vested before notification. Kathleen Kiely-Becchetti mentioned that Group 4 members no longer have a vesting requirement, therefore this decision would not be beneficial for those members. This DALA decision is currently on appeal.

Mr. McDonough reported and commented on other pending Board issues as well as general retirement issues of interest.

At the conclusion of the legal update, Attorney McDonough left the meeting.

Investment Review:

July Portfolio Update with August Capital Markets:

Trade Recommendation Worksheet – Raise Cash for Pension Payroll:

MOTION TO APPROVE RECOMMENDATION TO RAISE FUNDS

SO VOTED

Board interviewed finalist, ABS, for Emerging Markets Equity RFP:

A MOTION WAS MADE AND SECONDED TO HIRE ABS AS THE SYSTEM'S EMERGING MARKETS EQUITY INVESTMENT MANAGER.

SO VOTED

A MOTION WAS MADE AND SECONDED TO INVEST \$6,500,000.00 WITH ABS.

SO VOTED

It was noted that the Board will start the Annual Manager Review calls at the October Board meeting.

Adjournment:

A MOTION WAS MADE AND SECONDED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 10:15AM

SO VOTED