

## **MINUTES OF MEETING HELD TUESDAY, APRIL 20, 2021**

In response to the coronavirus pandemic and following the directives and guidance issued by the Governor Baker Administration, which allows for a public meeting to be conducted by teleconference, the Watertown Retirement Board held their meeting via teleconference. The meeting was properly posted on the website and the public was allowed call-in access to the meeting.

Chairman Thomas V. Thibaut, Jr. called the teleconference meeting of the Watertown Contributory Retirement Board to order at approximately 8:30 AM. Board Members present on the call were Chairman Thibaut; Mr. Domenic Duke Arone; Mr. John Loughran; and Ms. Kathleen Kiely-Becchetti. Staff members present on the call were Director Barbara A. Sheehan and Administrative Assistant, Kayla Sheehan. Also on the conference were Attorneys Thomas F. Gibson and Gerald McDonough. Mr. Tracy was unable to participate.

### **Confirm Next Monthly Meeting:**

The May meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, May 18, 2021.  
It was agreed that the meetings would be held via teleconference.

### **Examination of Minutes:**

From meetings held on Tuesday February 16, 2021 & March 16, 2021

**A MOTION WAS MADE AND SECONDED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS WRITTEN. A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN AND RECORDED AS FOLLOWS:**

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

### **Examination of Executive Session Minutes:**

From Executive Session held on Tuesday March 16, 2021

**A MOTION WAS MADE AND SECONDED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS AMENDED. A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN AND RECORDED AS FOLLOWS:**

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

### **Note Deaths of Members/Beneficiaries:**

**Paul Perrone** – Died 03/14/21  
Retired 07/01/87 – School Dept., Custodian  
Superannuation, Option B  
Annuity Savings Balance: \$0.00  
Final Benefits Due: \$506.45

**A MOTION WAS MADE AND SECONDED TO APPROVE THE FINAL BENEFITS OF PAUL PERRONE. A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN AND RECORDED AS FOLLOWS:**

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

**Gerard Chevrette** – Died 03/31/21  
Retired 07/30/87 – Fire Dept., Firefighter/Mechanic  
Superannuation, Option B  
Annuity Savings Balance: \$0.00  
Final Benefits Due: \$0.00

**Joseph Cavallaro** – Died 04/10/21  
Retired 04/26/05 – DPW, HEO  
Superannuation, Option C  
Beneficiary on File

**Review PERAC Correspondence:**

**MEMO'S:**

- #12/2021    03/11/21    Tobacco Company List
- #13/2021    03/24/21    2020 Annual Statement of Earned Income Filing (91A)
- #14/2021    03/31/21    Mandatory Retirement Board Member Training – 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2021
- #15/2021    04/13/21    Implementation of Paid Family Medical Leave ("PFML")

**John W. Parsons, Esq:**

04/06/21    PERAC has approved the Board's decision to grant accidental disability retirement benefits to Stephen P. Igoe. Calculation has been submitted to PERAC (through PROSPER.)

**James Lamenzo:**

03/30/21    3(8)(c) Liability from Watertown to the Middlesex Retirement System for James Doherty has been reduced from \$13,344.26/year to \$12,142.62/year

**Review Applications For Benefits:**

**Applications For Membership:**

Nancy Noonan	Treasurer/Collector	Principal Acct. Clerk	20 Hrs.	Gr. 1	01/19/21
Stacey Hopkins	DPW	Supervisor of Custodians	40 Hrs.	Gr. 1	02/12/21
Joselin Lemus	School Dept.	Writing Lab Aide	31.665 Hrs.	Gr. 1	01/26/21

**A MOTION WAS MADE AND SECONDED TO APPROVE THE APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP.  
A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN AND RECORDED AS FOLLOWS:**

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

**Refund of Accumulated Deductions:**

<b>Tess Amendola</b> – School Dept., Instructional Asst.	
Membership Service:	08/28/18 – 01/29/21
Refund of Deductions:	\$6,478.17
Refund of Interest:	\$139.19
20% Federal Tax Withheld:	(\$1,323.47)
<b>NET REFUND TO MEMBER:</b>	<b>\$5,293.89</b>

**A MOTION WAS MADE AND SECONDED TO APPROVE THE APPLICATIONS FOR REFUND. A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN AND RECORDED AS FOLLOWS:**

- Mr. Loughran            YES
- Mr. Arone                YES

Ms. Kiely-Becchetti YES  
Chairman Thibaut YES

**Jesse Myott** – DPW, Director of Admin & Finance

Membership Service: 03/19/19 – 08/28/20  
Refund of Deductions: \$36,285.45  
Refund of Interest: \$1,106.67  
20% Federal Tax Withheld: \*(0.00)  
**NET REFUND TO MEMBER: \*\*\$37,392.12**

*\*Rollover \*\*Includes Fund from Prior Service*

**A MOTION WAS MADE AND SECONDED TO APPROVE THE APPLICATIONS FOR REFUND. A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN AND RECORDED AS FOLLOWS:**

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

**Rita Rufo** – Treasurer/Collector, Provisional Account Clerk

Membership Service: 08/26/19 – 11/30/20  
Refund of Deductions: \$2,854.34  
Refund of Interest: \$43.43  
20% Federal Tax Withheld: (\$579.55)  
**NET REFUND TO MEMBER: \$2,318.22**

**A MOTION WAS MADE AND SECONDED TO APPROVE THE APPLICATIONS FOR REFUND. A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN AND RECORDED AS FOLLOWS:**

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

**Superannuation Retirement:**

**Jeffrey Pugliese** – Police Dept., Sergeant

Retirement Date: 05/31/21  
Service: \*44 Years & 9 Months  
Veteran Status: Y  
*\*Includes purchase of 4 Years of Military Service*

**A MOTION WAS MADE AND SECONDED TO APPROVE THE APPLICATIONS FOR SUPERANNUATION RETIREMENT. A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN AND RECORDED AS FOLLOWS:**

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

**Creditable Service Purchase:**

**Buyback:**

**Charles Samios** – Watertown Police Officer, requesting to purchase non-membership service during 1993 – 1994 when he was employed by the City of Cambridge ineligible for membership in the Cambridge Retirement System.

**Total (pro-rated) Service = 10 Months**

**Total Cost for Service = \$7,654.87**

Mr. Samios has elected to pay \$80.00 per pay period until the amount is paid in full.

**A MOTION WAS MADE AND SECONDED TO APPROVE THE REQUEST TO PURCHASE SERVICE AND ACCEPT LIABILITY FOR 10 MONTHS CREDITABLE SERVICE. ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN AND RECORDED AS FOLLOWS:**

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

**Mark Marchant** – Watertown Firefighter, requesting to purchase non-membership service during 2000 - 2002 when he was employed seasonally by the DPW & Recreation Department and ineligible for membership in the retirement system.

**Total (pro-rated) Service = 5 Months**

**Total Cost for Service = \$991.56**

Mr. Marchant has elected to pay \$80.00 per pay period until the amount is paid in full.

**A MOTION WAS MADE AND SECONDED TO APPROVE THE REQUEST TO PURCHASE SERVICE AND ACCEPT LIABILITY FOR 5 MONTHS CREDITABLE SERVICE. ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN AND RECORDED AS FOLLOWS:**

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

**Stephanie Venizelos** – Community Wellness Manager, requesting to purchase non-membership service during February 2016 – August 2017 when she was employed by the Town of Watertown in various positions and ineligible for membership in the retirement system.

**Total (pro-rated) Service = 10 Months**

**Total Cost for Service = \$4,937.69**

Ms. Venizelos has elected to pay \$1,646.00 per pay period until the amount is paid in full.

**A MOTION WAS MADE AND SECONDED TO APPROVE THE REQUEST TO PURCHASE SERVICE AND ACCEPT LIABILITY FOR 10 MONTHS CREDITABLE SERVICE. ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN AND RECORDED AS FOLLOWS:**

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

**Review Injury Reports:**

NAME	DEPT	Injury Date	Report #
Robert Ferrier	DPW	03/20/21	#02

**Review Warrants:**

1354-21	Refunds & Transfers	46,907.25
1355-21	Monthly Vendor Expenses	29,851.00
1356-21	38c Invoices	109,107.25
1357-21	Fund Transfer – Eastern Vendor to Eastern Payroll	200,000.00
1358-21	Fund Transfer – People's United to Eastern Payroll	1,071,805.14

1359-21 Pension Payroll – 2021/04  
1360-21 Salaries/Stipends

1,271,805.14  
18,600.51

**A MOTION WAS MADE AND SECONDED TO APPROVE THE WARRANTS AS AMENDED. A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN AND RECORDED AS FOLLOWS:**

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

**Director's Report:**

The status' of ongoing office issues were reported on and discussed.  
Due to the unusual circumstances of the past year, the Board agreed to allow Director Sheehan to request an extension from PERAC for filing the 2020 Annual Statement.

**Committee Reports:**

There we no committee reports.

**Old/Unfinished Business:**

Operating Budget – Due to the absence of Mr. Tracy, it was agreed to Table discussion on the Budget until next month.

**New Business**

Board to Take Action on 07/01/21 Retiree COLA

**A MOTION WAS MADE AND SECONDED TO GRANT ELIGIBLE RETIREES AND BENEFICIARIES A 3% COLA BASED ON A \$13,000.00 BASE, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2021. A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN AND RECORDED AS FOLLOWS:**

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

**Legal Update:**

There was a brief discussion regarding PERAC MEMO #15/2021, Implementation of Paid Family Medical Leave ("PFML"). It was decided to wait and see if/how this affects Watertown members.

In conjunction with recent guidance issued by the Division of Open Government regarding meetings of public bodies during the State of Emergency, legal counsel reviewed pertinent provisions of the Open Meeting Law. Specifically, counsel reviewed the proper procedures to be followed by the Board when entering and exiting executive session, including convening first in open session.

**Adjournment:**

Prior to adjourning the open session portion of the meeting it was noted that the Board would be holding an executive session under Purpose 3 of the Open Meeting Law: : To discuss strategy with respect to litigation: Watertown Retirement Board vs. Justices of the Framingham Div., District Court Det. of the Trial Court et al Middlesex C.A. No.: 1581 CV05260. It was noted that the Board would not re-convene to open session at the Conclusion of executive session and that any votes taken in executive session would be recorded in the Minutes of the next open meeting.

**A MOTION WAS MADE TO ADJOURN THE OPEN PORTION OF THE MEETING AND TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION UNDER PURPOSE 3 OF THE OPEN MEETING LAW. A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN AND RECORDED AS FOLLOWS:**

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