

# Worcester Regional Retirement Board Meeting

## April 28, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 8:08 a.m. Chairman Blanchette opened the monthly Board of Trustee's Meeting by roll call: Gene Durgin, yes; Joanne L. Savignac, yes; Michael Donoghue, yes; Pauline Lajoie, yes; and the Chairman, yes. Due to COVID 19 regulations and social distancing considerations, the meeting took place at the Auburn Elks, 74 Southbridge Street, Auburn, MA 01501. Present at the meeting were Chairman Kevin Blanchette, Board Members Gene Durgin, Joanne Savignac, Michael Donoghue, and Pauline Lajoie. Also present were Michael Sacco, Chief Executive Officer, Colleen Canty, Rosemary Shaughnessy and Durriyyah Leonard.

At 8:08 a.m. in accordance with Section 21(a)(1) of Chapter 30A of the General Laws, a motion was made to go into Executive Session to discuss the CEO Contract Negotiations and to return to open session following the Executive Session. Motion made by Ms. Lajoie and seconded by Mr. Donoghue. The motion carried by a roll call vote with, Mr. Donoghue, yes; Mr. Durgin, yes; Ms. Lajoie, yes; Ms. Savignac, yes; and Chairman, Blanchette, yes.

The Board reconvened in open session at 8:20 a.m.

### **APPROVAL - MEETING MINUTES: March 30, 2021.**

**MOTION:** *made by Mr. Donoghue and seconded by Mr. Durgin. All were in favor.*

### **MONTHLY WARRANTS:**

**Accounts Payable:                      Warrant #23                      \$46,465.03**

**MOTION:** *made by Ms. Lajoie and seconded by Mr. Donoghue. All in favor.*

**Staff Salaries:                      Warrant #26                      \$65,955.60**

**MOTION:** *made by Mr. Donoghue and seconded by Mr. Durgin. All in favor.*

**Board Compensation:                      Warrant #27                      \$2,500.00**

**MOTION:** *made by Ms. Lajoie and seconded by Mr. Donoghue. All in favor.*

**3(8)c's                      Warrant #30                      \$697,880.60**

**MOTION:** *made by Ms. Savignac and seconded by Mr. Donoghue. All in favor.*

**Pension Vouchers:                      \$7,869,556.90**

**MOTION:** *made by Mr. Durgin and seconded by Ms. Lajoie. All in favor.*

Prior to and during the meeting, the following items were available for the Board's review: monthly financial statements, current investment statements, invoices, member and retirees and files related to items on the agenda.

The Board reviewed the Cash Balance and Operating Expenses.

**Refunds & Transfers                      Warrant #28                      \$506,184.42**

**MOTION:** *made by Ms. Lajoie and seconded by Mr. Durgin. All in favor.*

### **NEW MEMBER APPLICATIONS: (57)**

**MOTION:** *made by Mr. Donoghue and seconded by Ms. Lajoie. All in favor*

### **RETIREMENT APPROVALS: (15)**

**MOTION:** *made by Mr. Donoghue and seconded by Mr. Durgin. All in favor.*

### **CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT:**

## **Legal Update**

The CEO gave his monthly report to the Board with respect to legal matters and informed the Board on the DALA decision made in the matter regarding Russell Kleber. Russell Kleber, the former Police Chief in the Town of Athol who signed a Separation Agreement and put on Administrative Leave with pay decided to appeal the DALA decision to CRAB. His believes the paid leave should be considered regular compensation vs. severance pay.

The CEO gave his monthly report to the Board with respect to Anthony Belliveau - the Millbury Police Officer who along with a fellow officer removed a gun without authorization from the armory and was placed on administrative leave. WRRS is appealing the DALA decision that found Mr. Belliveau's 20-year history of trauma could have caused PTSD, to CRAB. CEO will be drafting formal objections to the DALA decisions.

ERI legislation has had no movement.

## **PRIM / PRIT Update**

The System is just shy of \$925 million as of March 31st. The Dow Jones was 32,981 on March 31st and opened today at 33,984.93. No change in the PRIT asset allocation or investment strategy. The CEO also informed the Board that the investment project he was assigned with respect to looking at other retirement systems that are similarly funded, has been completed, and he presented his findings and recommendations. CEO plans to attend the PRIM 2021 Investor Client Conference remotely and invited the Board to attend. CEO mentioned continuing education credits that will be offered and offered to provide the link to the board members if they were interested in attending. The CEO also suggested, and the Board agreed, to have its investment consultant, Fiducient Advisors, attend the June 2021 meeting to discuss various investment strategies and options as part of its due diligence.

## **Actuarial Update**

The staff has received a few requests from the member units who are interested in paying more than the annual appropriation amount to reduce future appropriations. The CEO stated the WRRS team has been communicating with KMS to determine how that would be done actuarially and stated the team would respond to all the member unit Treasurers on the issue once we have more information.

## **Staff Activities**

The CEO informed the Board on the working status of a few of the employees and discussed upcoming outreach events. Leslie has returned full-time from her medical leave and she was welcomed back to the office. Durriyyah continues her training with Rose on the disability process. The CEO informed the Board that as part of his continued outreach program, he will be presenting at the District 8 Mass Fire Chiefs Association Annual Meeting on May 18, 2021 and has recently been invited to speak at MACRS sponsored Legal Panel that is scheduled for June 7th – he will be working on both presentations.

The CEO informed the Board that the staff has been training and acclimating to the new PTG system and the plan is to go “live” with PTG on May 1st.

The CEO reached out to Tech Pro Services, our computer consultant, to discuss possible additions to our cyber security network and received the proposal from Tech Pro Services. It was proposed that we add advanced email protection, intrusion detection, monthly review of firewall and server logs, develop a standard operating procedure manual (password update/change policy, file storage and back-up) and replacing/upgrading our PCs.

The CEO presented a draft version of the FY 2022 Budget and next month will prepare a more detailed memorandum on the budget; a vote is needed to approve the budget next month. The Annual Statement is completed, kudos to Anne McNamara for all the hard work. Anne also trained Val during the preparation process. A vote is needed to approve the annual statement – PERAC allows submission without signatures by the May 1st due date.

**MOTION:** *made by Mr. Donoghue and seconded by Mr. Durgin. All were in favor.*

The Board meetings will recommence in person starting in May and held at the Auburn Elks Club for the next three meetings; however, the WRRS office will remain closed to the public. The idea to transition the office into a soft opening is a topic for further discussion – in May, the WRRS office may start with appointment only meetings before fully re-opening because the goal is to drive traffic to the website.

The CEO finished the next webinar in his outreach webinar series for the website. He is in the process of recording the audio.

Clifton Larson Allen will be coming soon to start the financial audit. PERAC will be coming back for its 6-month follow-up of the 2012-2015 audit that completed in 2019.

Jennifer Callahan – member in Oxford, former State Rep 2003-2011, UMass Medical 1988-2002, back with us in 2016, inquired about purchasing her time as an elected official in Sutton BOS, April 1999 to April 2002 – was at UMass then but on WC, no service, thought she was getting service so she did not elect to become a member back then – sent letter yesterday informing her she cannot buy it back, suggested to Colleen that she wanted to come before the Board – CEO will reach out to discuss.

***MOTION TO ADJOURN:*** *made by Mr. Donoghue and seconded by Mr. Durgin at 9:15 a.m. to close the meeting and adjourn. Non-debatable motion. All in favor. The motion carried by a roll call vote.*