

**Worcester Regional Retirement Board Meeting
Special Meeting
May 2, 2023**

The meeting was called to order at 8:03 a.m. Due to COVID 19 regulations, social distancing considerations and Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Executive Order permitting remote participation for public meetings (order extended through March 31, 2025 by Governor Healey on March 29, 2023), the meeting took place by Zoom Conferencing. Present at the meeting were Chairman Kevin Blanchette, Board Members Gene Durgin, Michael Donoghue, Pauline Lajoie, and Rebecca Tuttle. Also present were Colleen Canty and Carol Rocco. All votes were taken by roll call.

Chairman Blanchette opened the meeting by stating that the first item up for discussion was a personnel update. Chairman Blanchette and Colleen Canty met with Ms. Rachel Grimaldi, candidate for Executive Director, last week after the Board meeting. Chairman Blanchette was very impressed with Ms. Grimaldi and felt that her experience, proven leadership skills and vision make her an excellent candidate for the position of Executive Director. Chairman Blanchette contacted Ms. Grimaldi's references which were all positive. They highlighted her positive attributes and skills such as presentation skills, team building and mentoring. Chairman Blanchette indicated that Ms. Grimaldi seems excited about the position and came to the interview with new ideas. Ms. Grimaldi will need to spend some time adjusting to working with a multi-unit system and learning more about the actuarial piece of the system. Mr. Durgin moved the discussion to the possibility of working out a contract and salary for Ms. Grimaldi. Chairman Blanchette indicated that it would be a smooth transition since she is already in the pension system. Legal counsel would be retained to help with salary and contract specifics.

MOTION: *A motion was made to authorize Chairman Blanchette to offer Ms. Grimaldi the position of Executive Director and begin contract negotiations with her. Motion made by Mr. Donoghue and seconded by Ms. Tuttle. The motion carried with a majority roll call vote with, Mr. Donoghue, yes; Mr. Durgin, yes; Ms. Lajoie, yes; Ms. Tuttle, yes; and Chairman, Blanchette, yes.*

Chairman Blanchette agreed to keep the Board informed as the process moves forward.

Chairman Blanchette stated that the final agenda item was to approve the Annual Statement. He stated that the staff worked hard to produce this statement and offered a thank you to all staff members, especially Anne McNamara, Colleen Canty and Valerie Farrell.

MOTION: *A motion was made to accept the Annual Statement. Motion made by Mr. Durgin and seconded by Mr. Donoghue. The motion carried with a majority roll call vote with, Mr. Donoghue, yes; Mr. Durgin, yes; Ms. Lajoie, yes; Ms. Tuttle, yes; and Chairman, Blanchette, yes.*

Ms. Tuttle stated that she is getting a lot of questions about the 2% COLA increase. She stated that some towns indicated that they would like information about the other town votes and which way it is leaning. Ms. Canty stated that earlier the Board decided not to give out this information as it felt that each town should make a decision that is right for their unit regardless of other town votes. The Board agreed to keep that policy. Chairman Blanchette will send out a reminder to towns of the June 30, 2023 deadline to submit a vote on this issue.

ADJOURN MOTION: *Motion was made by Ms. Tuttle and seconded by Ms. Lajoie at 8:26 a.m. to close the meeting and adjourn. Non-debatable motion. All in favor. The motion carried by a roll call vote with Mr. Donoghue, yes; Mr. Durgin, yes; Ms. Lajoie, yes; Ms. Tuttle, yes; and Chairman Blanchette, yes.*