

**Worcester Regional Retirement Board Meeting  
October 27, 2020**

The meeting was called to order at 8:05 a.m. 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.

**APPROVAL - MEETING MINUTES: September 29, 2020.**

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

**MONTHLY WARRANTS:**

**Accounts Payable:                      Warrant #70                      \$83,118.89**

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

**Staff Salaries:                      Warrant #73                      \$60,677.59**

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

**Board Compensation:              Warrant #74                      \$2,500.00**

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

**3(8)c's                      Warrant #79                      \$36,314.27**

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

**Pension Vouchers:              (4 Supplementals)              \$68,404.48**

**MOTION:** *made by Ms. Savignac and seconded by Mr. Donoghue. 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 retiree files related to items on the agenda.

The Board reviewed the Cash Balance and Operating Expenses.

**Refunds & Transfers              Warrant #75**  
**MOTION:** *made by Mr. Durgin and seconded by Mr. Donoghue. All in favor.*              **\$454,725.79**

**NEW MEMBER APPLICATIONS: (101)**

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

**RETIREMENT APPROVALS: (21)**

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

Chairman Blanchette opened up the discussion for investment strategies as stated from last month's meeting minutes. Opinions were stated for the next few minutes. *A motion was made by Ms. Lajoie and seconded by Mr. Donoghue* for Chairman Blanchette to send a letter to Mr. Trotsky requesting a one on one meeting to discuss options for Worcester Regional Retirement and report back to the Board. **MOTION** *was made by Mr. Lajoie and seconded by Mr. Donoghue. All in favor.*

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

### **LEGAL / LEGISLATIVE**

- Vernava – briefs filed; oral argument scheduled via Zoom on November 12, 2020
- Russell Kleber – Athol – Police Chief – Severance/Regular Compensation issue – PHM stage at DALA
- Robert Desrosiers – Paxton Police Chief – regular compensation case - prevailed at DALA, objections and our response filed at CRAB – could take up to 2 years for a decision
- TRB v WRRB – Section 3(8)(c) litigation – involves 6 year contract claim statute of limitations issue – currently case at the Appeals Court waiting to be scheduled for oral argument as to whether boards must exhaust administrative remedies to go to Superior Court – DALA/CRAB already ruled 6-year statute of limitations does not apply – just filed motion to stay
- Call Fire Fighters – sent out several letters to Call FF who we had to adjust based on Gomes SJC Decision – 4 appeals filed with DALA thus far

### **PRIM/PRIT**

- Tab 8 – as of 9/30/2020 \$838 million, DJ closed at 27,781.7 on 9/30, opens this morning at 27,685, down approximately 650 points

### **ACTUARIAL UPDATE**

- GASB 67/68 complete and posted on website.
- Audit should be done and posted this week – we'll send an alert to the Treasurers when it happens – a little later than usual, perhaps COVID related – we've been timely in our submission of data and responses to requests – just asked for a legal update so we must be close.

### **STAFF ACTIVITIES**

- Our new hire, Durriyyah Leonard joined us just last Thursday, and she has been working with Rosemary primarily for training – lot to learn – had a DALA and CRAB filing late last week, so exposing her to the legal work that needs to be done as well as the administrative work.
- Continuing with the verifications – 129 still outstanding, yesterday was the cut-off, printing paper checks and we will release them and reinstate direct deposit when we receive the verification, making phone calls.
- Still no plan on opening office to the public – continue with current operating plan until the State of Emergency is lifted.
- Received a proposal from PTG for Software services back in late August, been calling around to other county/regional boards that have multiple member units, feedback mostly positive – I have not had access since August 13<sup>th</sup> – our computer guy contacted Tyler on multiple occasions and no one has returned his calls/emails.
- Had a complaint from Quabbin Regional – regular compensation issue – complicated/convoluted case, likely some misunderstanding on their part – Colleen had spoken with our member, she understood the issue and was fine with it, there was an issue of not withholding 2% for 17 years which was clearly Quabbin's fault, and perhaps she approached them on that issue which triggered this letter – you have my response.
- On the regular compensation issue – Colleen, Valerie and I will be meeting tomorrow to try and simplify – if that is even possible – what constitutes regular compensation, but going through some payroll codes 1 member unit had 3 pages of separate codes ... historically we have done a very thorough job of educating the member units, we have to rely on them, will continue with the education by sending a follow-up memo and making sure our staff is all on the same page.
- Finally – believe it or not, we are coming upon my first year as CEO – my understanding of years past was Kevin would submit to the Board a “year in review” along with some goals for the next year, so my plan is to present that to the Board in November, and we can conduct the review during the open meeting in December –

if the Board has any other thoughts happy to proceed however you want. Board suggested the CEO to draft a self-evaluation to present to the Board for the November meeting

- Amendment needs to be made to the June 30, 2020 Meeting Minutes. The C4 Schedule was voted on in June 2020, but was not put in the minutes, **MOTION** *was made by Mr. Donoghue and seconded by Mr. Durgin.*

At 8:55am Chairman Blanchette made motion to have a 5 minute break then go into Executive Session for the Evidentiary Hearings at 9:00am. The Board reconvened the open meeting at 9:00 a.m. **MOTION** *was made by Mr. Donoghue and seconded by Mr. Durgin to convene in executive session to conduct evidentiary hearings pertaining the physical health and/or psychological well-being of members seeking a disability retirement. Roll call vote: Mr. Donoghue, yes; Mr. Durgin, yes; Ms. Lajoie, yes, Ms. Savignac, yes, and Chairman Blanchette, yes.*

At 9:39 a.m. the Board reconvened in open session.

**ADJOURN MOTION:** *Motion was made by Mr. Durgin and seconded by Ms. Savignac at 9:39 a.m. to close the Executive Session and then close meeting and adjourn. Non-debatable motion. All in favor.*