

**Worcester Regional Retirement Board Meeting
October 19, 2021**

The meeting was called to order at 8:11 a.m. Chairman Blanchette, via Zoom opened the monthly Board of Trustee's Meeting by roll call: Rebecca Tuttle, yes; Gene Durgin, yes; Michael Donoghue, yes; Pauline Lajoie, yes; and the Chairman, yes. The meeting took place at Worcester Regional 23 Midstate Drive, Suite 106, Auburn, MA 01501. Present at the meeting were Chairman Kevin Blanchette, Board Members Michael Donoghue, Pauline Lajoie, Rebecca Tuttle and Gene Durgin. Also, present were Michael Sacco, Chief Executive Officer, Colleen Canty, Rosemary Shaughnessy and Anne Hicks.

APPROVAL - MEETING MINUTES: September 28, 2021.

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

MONTHLY WARRANTS:

Accounts Payable: Warrant #64 \$49,730.19

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

Staff Salaries: Warrant #67 \$55,892.69

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

Board Compensation: Warrant #68 \$2,500.00

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

Pension Vouchers: \$8,240,710.65

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

Operating Expenses: \$82,674.71

MOTION: *made by Mr. Donoghue and seconded by Mr. Durgin. 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 #69 \$79,984.19

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

Refunds & Transfers Warrant #69A \$234,244.26

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

Refunds & Transfers Warrant #69B \$42,240.69

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

Refunds & Transfers Warrant #69C \$5,643.47

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

NEW MEMBER APPLICATIONS: (107)

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

RETIREMENT APPROVALS: (15) 1 rescinded

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

Chairman, Kevin Blanchette

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT:

LEGAL UPDATE:

Vernava — CEO informed the Board that oral argument is scheduled for November 3rd – welcome to attend but can watch online – CEO will make the link available as we get closer. There are no other updates on any legal cases.

PRIM / PRIT Update

No PRIT information in the books – meeting this month is too early. The Dow Jones was 34,390 on 9/30, closed yesterday at 35,258 – up about 900 points in the last 3 weeks.

ACTUARIAL/AUDIT

CEO discussed the draft CLA Audit – some highlights – Fund net gain of \$97.9 million 2019 to 2020; basically, between employer contributions (\$67 million), member contributions (\$35 million) and net investment return (\$97 million), dividends/interest (\$18.3 million) less \$4 million in management fees added \$203 million, less \$105 million in retiree payroll/refunds/transfers and administration costs, led to net gain of almost \$98 million

Approximately 50% funded, UAL just shy of \$900 million

Active 7137; Retired/Survivor 3941; and Inactive 2,414

STAFF ACTIVITIES

The CEO reported as follows. Staff has been very busy with retirements – as you saw 15 this month (early meeting) – and we have 43 more in the que – 250 all last year, processed 215 so far, so probably see about a 30% increase this year.

We have two (2) new staff hires – Anne Hicks joined us on October 4th – to avoid confusion, Anne Hicks is “Annie” and Anne McNamara is “Anne” – she has begun her training with Rose and Colleen, and with the disabilities, CEO will be taking a larger role as he take over the training from Rose as she transitions into retirement, as well as training Annie on the legal matters on which the CEO needs assistance. Rose leaves for vacation this Thursday, and then she returns on November 4th for a week before her official November 12, 2021, retirement date. We also hired Maura Steele, who will start with us on November 8th – Maura comes to us from Curry Printing in Westborough where she has been working for the last 8 years as an administrative assistant. Looking forward to the additional help as the workload continues to increase for staff, with no slow-down in sight.

On Wednesday CEO will be traveling to the Rutland Library for the first of what will be either 3- or 4-member benefit seminars CEO will be conducting this fall. We have a second seminar scheduled on November 30th in Westborough, and we will try to reach out to the two remaining quadrants to see if we can find a host facility for seminars, and if unsuccessful we will schedule one for some time in November/early December at the Elks.

On November 5th, CEO will be conducting benefit seminar for the District 7 Fire Chiefs at the Sutton Police Department, which will round out the Department Head 2020 seminars – next up will be the annual Treasurers’ meeting in January when we issue the appropriation letters, and we usually have Linda Bournival from KMS Actuaries come in for the presentation and to answer questions – usually there is an

annual Treasurers' Meeting in February or March, so the CEO anticipates appearing then as well for a benefit seminar/presentation.

With everything going on we may need to push the newsletter back to early December, but we're on track and the CEO is preparing the written materials – what CEO would like to do for this newsletter is to highlight Becky as our new member, and focus on our elected members when we issue our summer newsletter in July 2022.

The CEO noted that he is coming up on completing his second year here – Board needs to do CEO's evaluation in December or January – as we did last year, CEO will put together a memorandum for the Board - year in review, plans for 2022 – and present that the Board in November, and then Board can decide what it wants to do in December or January, if acceptable.

Goal for 2022 – adding the Investments into CEO's focus, if we end up going the Segmentation route, which could possibly lead additional investment decisions beyond the PRIT fund.

November meeting – CEO will float a meeting schedule for 2022 so that if we need to make any changes or accommodations, we can do that.

Finally, all staff have signed the vaccination attestation the Board requested.

MOTION TO ADJOURN: made by Mr. Donoghue and seconded by Ms. Tuttle at 09:37 a.m. to close the meeting and adjourn. Non-debatable motion. All in favor. The motion carried by a roll call vote.