

MINUTES OF MEETING SEPTEMBER 29, 2022

The regular monthly meeting of the Northampton Retirement Board was called to order by Chairperson Joyce Karpinski at 1:32 p.m.

Members present were Joyce Karpinski, Charlene Nardi, Thomas Sullivan and Tammy Suprenant. (Mr. Sullivan arrived at 1:37 p.m.) Ms. Lafleche was absent. Also present was Retirement Administrator David Shipka and Associate Retirement Specialist Elsie Vazquez.

The meeting was held remotely via Zoom teleconference pursuant to the Open Meeting Law provisions in Chapter 107 of the Acts of 2022.

Visitors

None

New Business

The Board reviewed the 1/1/2023 – 12/31/2023 Retirement Budget prepared by the Administrator.

During the review of the budget figures, the Administrator noted that Stone Consulting had provided a cost estimate for a COLA base increase study, per Ms. Lafleche's interest in reviewing this issue. The cost estimate of \$2,250 would cover the cost of the study and a new funding schedule. The study would be specific to a potential COLA base increase, not a full actuarial valuation. At Ms. Suprenant's request, a discussion of the COLA base and a potential increase will be added to the October regular meeting agenda.

On a motion made by Ms. Suprenant and seconded by Ms. Nardi, the Board voted unanimously by roll call (4-0) to approve the 1/1/2023 – 12/31/2023 Retirement Budget (Karpinski: Yes, Nardi: Yes, Sullivan: Yes, Suprenant: Yes).

Regular Business

The Board received applications for the following new members:

Misty McMillan (School)
Evan Blouin (School)
Jacqueline Blair (Cafeteria)
Hannah Craig (School)
Sara Boyle (Cafeteria)
Elliot Ezcurra (Health Dept)
Katelyn Deppen (Central Services)
Stephanie Gleason (Dispatch)

Josef Alvarez (Dispatch)
Tayshana Rodriguez-Logan (Police)
Rebecca Sieracki (School)
Emily Lopez Lopez (School)
Roe Clark IV (School)
Sydney Menard (Smith Voke)
Andrea Moroney (School)
Marieanne Dambrov (School)
Cameron Carter (School)
Molly Moynihan (School)
Chen Vue (School)
Amanda Marshall (School)
Isabella Uttley-Rosado (School)
Alejandro Shaw-Correa (School)
Callum McLaughlin (School)
Brandon Eastman (Custodians)
Deborah Hart (School Administration)
Douglas Gibbs (School Administration)
Michele Jarvis (School Administration)
Carly McDonald (School)
April Clay (School)
Miguel Aquino (School)
Daniel Stone (Central Services)
Lauren Boyce (School)
Shelby Bolduc (School)

On a motion made by Ms. Nardi and seconded by Ms. Suprenant, the Board voted unanimously by roll call (4-0) to accept the aforementioned new member(s) (Karpinski: Yes, Nardi: Yes, Sullivan: Yes, Suprenant: Yes).

The Board received superannuation retirement application(s) for the following members:
Lonnie Kaufman (Inactive - School Committee)

On a motion made by Ms. Suprenant and seconded by Ms. Nardi, the Board voted unanimously by roll call (4-0) to accept the aforementioned retirement application(s) (Karpinski: Yes, Nardi: Yes, Sullivan: Yes, Suprenant: Yes).

The Board reviewed retirement allowances for the following retirees:
None

The Board reviewed the following deceased members/retirees/survivors:
Michael Hebert (DPW)
Gerard Vanasse (Police)
Wanda Bacon (Fire)
Robert Phelps (DPW)

The Board briefly reviewed the August 25, 2022 minutes.

Ms. Suprenant apologized for missing August's regular meeting, noting it was due to an emergency medical procedure. She inquired about the section of the meeting minutes in which the Board had discussed basing increases on performance evaluations, noting that it seemed out of the norm. Mr. Sullivan said he agreed with her upon further reflection. Ms. Suprenant thought cost-of-living increases by definition should not be subject to performance, to which Ms. Nardi agreed. Regarding step increases, Ms. Suprenant thought it would be inappropriate to take steps away from the staff that the Board had already promised. She agreed that performance evaluations might be a good tool to increase communication without affecting pay increases, as is the case in the Police Department. Ms. Nardi noted the goal of performance reviews would be positive in nature, to facilitate greater communication between the Board and staff.

After the brief recap and clarification of the September regular meeting, on a motion made by Ms. Suprenant and seconded by Ms. Nardi, the Board voted unanimously by roll call (4-0) to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held on August 25, 2022 (Karpinski: Yes, Nardi: Yes, Sullivan: Yes, Suprenant: Yes).

On a motion made by Ms. Suprenant and seconded by Ms. Nardi, the Board voted unanimously by roll call (4-0) to approve the Executive Session minutes of the special meeting held on September 20, 2022 (Karpinski: Yes, Nardi: Yes, Sullivan: Yes, Suprenant: Yes). (There was no discussion.)

The Board reviewed and approved the following warrants:

Pension payroll warrant totaling \$1,073,063.54

Accounts payable warrant totaling \$233,200.37

Board and staff payroll warrant totaling \$22,086.37

On a motion made by Ms. Suprenant and seconded by Ms. Nardi, the Board voted unanimously by roll call (4-0) to approve the aforementioned warrants (Karpinski: Yes, Nardi: Yes, Sullivan: Yes, Suprenant: Yes).

The Board reviewed the following financial report(s) prepared by the Administrator:
July Cashbooks

The Board reviewed the following financial statement(s):

The de Burlo Group Statement for August

PRIT Statement for August

PRIM Update for August

The Board reviewed the following wire transfers for the current month:

\$1,544.86 from PRIM to Peoples' United/M&T Bank (distribution)

\$1,040,000 from Peoples' United Bank/M&T to Florence Bank

The Board reviewed the Treasurer's report on the Florence Bank account for August:
Bank statement: \$252,727.20
Outstanding disbursements/unrecorded receipts: \$224,893.25
Adjusted bank balance: \$27,833.95
Outstanding receipts: \$19,948.82
Trial Balance end of month balance: \$47,782.77

The Board reviewed the following makeup/buyback requests:
Anthony Bosworth Purchase of military service, credit for time served
with the US Navy amounting to 3 years and 11
months for a cost of \$14,206.50.

The Administrator briefly reviewed rules on military buybacks. On a motion made by Mr. Sullivan and seconded by Ms. Suprenant, the Board voted unanimously by roll call (4-0) to approve the aforementioned request (Karpinski: Yes, Nardi: Yes, Sullivan: Yes, Suprenant: Yes).

The Board reviewed the following correspondence:
PERAC #23 Vacation Buybacks as Regular Compensation
PERAC #24 Mandatory Retirement Board Member Training
PERAC #25 Tobacco Company List

Old Business

None

Other Business

Mr. Sullivan and Ms. Suprenant reported on the PERAC Emerging Issues Forum, held on September 15th in Worcester.

Adjournment

Ms. Lafleche arrived to the Zoom meeting as the Board was about to adjourn.

On a motion made by Ms. Suprenant and seconded by Ms. Nardi, the Board voted unanimously (5-0) by roll call to adjourn the meeting at 2:28 p.m. (Karpinski: Yes, Lafleche: Yes, Nardi: Yes, Sullivan: Yes, Suprenant: Yes).

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 27, 2022 at 1:30 p.m. via Zoom.

Respectfully Submitted,

Retirement Administrator

THESE MINUTES WERE APPROVED BY THE NORTHAMPTON RETIREMENT BOARD ON OCTOBER 27, 2022.

APPROVED:

_____ **Joyce Karpinski, Chairperson**

_____ **ABSENT** _____ **Karen Lafleche**

_____ **Charlene Nardi**

_____ **Thomas Sullivan**

_____ **Tammy Suprenant**