

## **MINUTES OF MEETING FEBRUARY 25, 2025**

The regular monthly meeting of the Northampton Retirement Board was called to order by Chairperson Charlene Nardi at 1:30 p.m.

Members present were Kala Fisher, Karen Lafleche, Charlene Nardi and Thomas Sullivan. Tammy Suprenant was absent. Also present was 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 2 of the Acts of 2023.

### **Visitors**

None

### **New Business**

The Board reviewed the fourth quarter budget report prepared by the Administrator.

### **Regular Business**

The Board received applications for the following new members:

Lauren Kelly (Health Dept)  
Jillian Pearson (Police)  
Giovannie Velez (Health Dept)  
Erin Haight (School)  
Vincent Tortoriello (Housing)  
Krystal Rodger (Cafeteria)  
Joseph Pisano (IT Dept)  
Barbara Santiago (School)  
Justin Wentworth (Central Services)

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

The Board received superannuation retirement application(s) for the following members:

Ann Furciniti (DPW)  
William Corbett Jr (Custodians)

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

The Board reviewed retirement allowances for the following retirees:

Deborah Walker (Housing)

On a motion made by Ms. Fisher and seconded by Ms. Lafleche, the Board voted unanimously by roll call (4-0) to approve the aforementioned retirement allowance(s) (Fisher: Yes, Lafleche: Yes, Nardi: Yes, Sullivan: Yes).

The Board reviewed recalculations pursuant to PERAC Memo 21-2024 concerning changes to the exceptions to the anti-spiking provision in MGL c.32 § 5(2)(f). The Administrator identified three retirees that qualify for the “employer systemic wage adjustment” exception under the new rules. James Bates and Susan Stone were part of the 2019 Collins Center salary study commissioned by the City of Northampton. In addition, PERAC opined that Karen Lafleche qualifies for the recently added exception due to departmental wage adjustments at Smith Vocational School.

James Bates (School)  
Karen Lafleche (Smith Voc)  
Susan Stone (Human Resources)

On a motion made by Mr. Sullivan and seconded by Ms. Fisher, the Board voted unanimously by roll call (4-0) to approve the retirement allowance modifications for James Bates and Susan Stone (Fisher: Yes, Lafleche: Yes, Nardi: Yes, Sullivan: Yes).

On a motion made by Ms. Fisher and seconded by Mr. Sullivan, the Board voted unanimously by roll call (3-0) to approve the retirement allowance modification for Karen Lafleche (Fisher: Yes, Nardi: Yes, Sullivan: Yes, Lafleche: *Abstain*).

The Board reviewed the following deceased members/retirees/survivors:  
John Feeney (Cafeteria)  
Michael Lyons (Auditor)  
Daniel Benedisuk (Fire)

The Administrator noted Michael Lyons’ service as former City Auditor and member of the Retirement Board.

The Board reviewed the minutes of the following meeting(s):  
Minutes for the regular meeting held on January 30, 2025

On a motion made by Ms. Lafleche and seconded by Ms. Fisher, the Board voted by roll call (4-0) to approve the aforementioned minutes (Fisher: Yes, Lafleche: Yes, Nardi: Yes, Sullivan: Yes).

Pension payroll warrant totaling \$1,179,859.03  
Accounts payable warrant totaling \$261,004.86  
Board and staff payroll warrant totaling \$15,926.77

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

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

The Board reviewed the following financial statement(s):  
The de Burlo Group Statement/Update for January  
PRIT Statement/Update for January

The Board reviewed the following wire transfers for the current month:  
\$1,120,000 from M&T Bank to Florence Bank  
\$1,576.77 from PRIM to M&T Bank (distribution)

The Board reviewed the Treasurer's report on the Florence Bank account for January  
Bank statement: \$586,376.61  
Outstanding disbursements/unrecorded receipts: \$412,614.76  
Adjusted bank balance: \$173,761.85  
Outstanding receipts: \$37,221.87  
Trial Balance end of month balance: \$210,983.72

The Board reviewed the following correspondence:  
PERAC #9: Actuarial Data

**Old Business**

None

**Other Business**

None

**Adjournment**

On a motion made by Mr. Sullivan and seconded by Ms. Lafleche, the Board voted unanimously (4-0) by roll call to adjourn the meeting at 2:04 p.m. (Fisher: Yes, Lafleche: Yes, Nardi: Yes, Sullivan: Yes).

The next meeting is scheduled for March 27, 2025 at 1:30 p.m. via Zoom.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Administrator

**THESE MINUTES WERE APPROVED BY THE NRB ON MARCH 27, 2025**

**APPROVED:**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Charlene Nardi, Chairperson**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Kala Fisher**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Karen Lafleche**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Thomas Sullivan**

\_\_\_\_\_ **ABSENT** \_\_\_\_\_ **Tammy Suprenant**