

## CHELSEA RETIREMENT BOARD MEETING

500 Broadway, Chelsea MA, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Conference Room of the Chelsea City Council

Minutes from meeting held on Thursday, August 19, 2021 at 9:00AM

**Present Were:** Board Chairman, Mr. Joseph M. Siewko, \*Mr. Edward Dunn, Ms. Carolyn Russo, Ms. Cheryl Watson Fisher and Mr. Richard Carroccino

**Also Present:** Mrs. Barbara A. O'Brien, Executive Director, Mrs. Cindy Donarumo, Assistant Director, and Mr. Brian P. Monahan, Esq., Board Counsel

Chairman Siewko opened the meeting at 9:02 AM and Member, Carlos J. Figueroa, was present

Chairman Siewko announced that the first matter that is on the agenda is Mark Lee's request for an Accidental Disability Retirement

At 9:03 AM Ms. Russo made a motion seconded by Mr. Carroccino to take the agenda items out of order to accommodate the member, Carlos J. Figueroa, who is present. The votes were as follows: Chairman Siewko:Yea Ms. Russo:Yea Ms. Watson Fisher:Yea Mr. Carroccino: Yea

Carlos J. Figueroa's request for an Accidental Disability Retirement

At 9:04 AM Ms. Russo made a motion seconded by Ms. Watson Fisher to enter Executive Session pursuant to Purposes 1 and 7 of the Open Meeting law to discuss protected medical information relating to Carlos J. Figueroa's request for an Accidental Disability Retirement. The motion passed 4-0. The votes were as follows: Chairman Siewko:Yea Ms. Russo:Yea Ms. Watson Fisher:Yea Mr. Carroccino: Yea

\*At 9:05 AM Mr. Dunn entered the meeting during Executive Session

At 9:12 AM the Board returned to Regular Session

At 9:12 AM Ms. Watson Fisher made a motion seconded by Ms. Russo to table the matter relating to Carlos J. Figueroa's request for an Accidental Disability Retirement until next month and request that the Department Head appear at the next meeting. The votes were as follows: Chairman Siewko:Yea Mr. Dunn:Yea Ms. Russo:Yea Ms. Watson Fisher:Yea Mr. Carroccino: Yea

Chairman Siewko explained to Mr. Figueroa that the Board tabled his request for an Accidental Disability Retirement until next month, that his Department Head will be asked to come to the meeting to address the Early Intervention issue and that his counsel will be advised of the issue relating to Early Intervention.

At 9:13 AM Carlos J. Figueroa left the meeting

Mark Lee's request for an Accidental Disability Retirement

At 9:14 AM Ms. Watson Fisher made a motion seconded by Mr. Carroccino to enter Executive Session pursuant to Purposes 1 and 7 of the Open Meeting law to discuss protected medical information relating to Mark Lee's request for an Accidental Disability Retirement. The votes were as follows: Chairman Siewko:Yea Mr. Dunn:Yea Ms. Russo:Yea Ms. Watson Fisher:Yea Mr. Carroccino: Yea

At 9:19 AM the Board returned to Regular Session.

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At 9:20 AM Mr. Carroccino made a motion seconded by Ms. Watson Fisher to request that PERAC convene a Medical Panel in regards to Mark Lee's request for an Accidental Disability Retirement. The votes were as follows: Chairman Siewko:Yea Mr. Dunn:Yea Ms. Russo:Yea Ms. Watson Fisher:Yea Mr. Carroccino: Yea

At 9:21 AM Ms. Watson Fisher made a motion seconded by Mr. Carroccino to approve as amended the Regular Session Minutes from the July 15, 2021 Retirement Board meeting. The votes were as follows: Chairman Siewko:Yea Mr. Dunn:Yea Ms. Russo:Yea Ms. Watson Fisher:Yea Mr. Carroccino: Yea

Robert Rogowicz - Military Service Buyback pursuant to M.G.L. c.32, §4(1)(h)

At 9:23 AM Mr. Carroccino made a motion seconded by Ms. Russo to approve Robert Rogowicz' request to purchase 3 years of Military Service. The votes were as follows: Chairman Siewko:Yea Mr. Dunn:Yea Ms. Russo:Yea Ms. Watson Fisher:Yea Mr. Carroccino: Yea

Mass Retirees – FOIA request

At 9:24 AM Mr. Dunn made a motion seconded by Ms. Russo to request that the Executive Director respond to Mass Retirees with a letter advising that the Board does not release retiree and survivor names and contact information. The votes were as follows: Chairman Siewko:Yea Mr. Dunn:Yea Ms. Russo:Yea Ms. Watson Fisher:Yea Mr. Carroccino: Yea

The following members have submitted an application for voluntary superannuation retirement benefits pursuant to M.G.L. c. 32 §5:

| Name/Title/Group               | DOR        | Age | Years of Service | Estimated 3 Yr. Average |
|--------------------------------|------------|-----|------------------|-------------------------|
| John Sullivan/Custodian/1      | 10/08/2021 | 66  | 23.0833          | \$52,067.99             |
| Richard Perisie/Deputy Chief/4 | 10/31/2021 | 65  | 32.4167          | \$134,264.92            |

At 9:25 AM Mr. Carroccino made a motion seconded by Ms. Russo to approve the above retirements. The votes were as follows: Chairman Siewko:Yea Mr. Dunn:Yea Ms. Russo:Yea Ms. Watson Fisher:Yea Mr. Carroccino: Yea

The following Retirement Systems have requested the transfer of funds for the following members:

| Name/Title/Group                        | Board Requesting Transfer | Accumulated Deductions | Total Service Credit / 3(8)c Liability | 10/12 Month Basis |
|---|---------------------------|------------------------|--|-------------------|
| Brittany Malek/<br>Paraprofessional /1  | MTRS                      | \$1,522.76             | .4167                                  | 12                |
| Stacy A. Pothier/<br>Paraprofessional/1 | MTRS                      | \$331.88               | .0833                                  | 12                |

At 9:26 AM Mr. Dunn made a motion seconded by Mr. Carroccino to approve the above transfers. The votes were as follows: Chairman Siewko:Yea Mr. Dunn:Yea Ms. Russo:Yea Ms. Watson Fisher:Yea Mr. Carroccino: Yea

The following member has requested a refund of their accumulated deductions:

| Name/Title/Group                 | Accumulated Deductions | Age | Service Credit | Taxes Withheld |
|----------------------------------|------------------------|-----|----------------|----------------|
| Francisco Lemus/Bldg Craftsman/1 | \$18,692.30            | 42  | 3.7500         | Yes            |

At 9:27 AM Mr. Dunn made a motion seconded by Ms. Watson Fisher to approve the above refund. The votes were as follows: Chairman Siewko:Yea Mr. Dunn:Yea Ms. Russo:Yea Ms. Watson Fisher:Yea Mr. Carroccino: Yea

#### Attorney's Report:

- Board Counsel referenced City Manager, Tom Ambrosino's August 6, 2021 communication and stated that due to the Delta Variant the Board should keep in mind that they may have to reinstate remote meetings again. Board Counsel stated that he wants to be sure that the McLaughlin deliberations get scheduled as soon as possible, taking into account Board member vacations. Board Counsel pointed out that PERAC Memo #17 extends remote participation through April of 2022.
- Board Counsel inquired and received confirmation from the Executive Director that the one remaining 2020 91A matter was resolved
- Michael McLaughlin matter – Board Counsel reminded Board members that they are not to discuss amongst themselves the Memorandums of Law that the Assistant Director has distributed in advance of the deliberations. There was also discussion relating to scheduling the deliberations.

#### Executive Director's Report:

- There was discussion regarding the Annual Affidavits and Virtual Notarization. It was decided that a statement should be added to the affidavit advising that the member should contact the Retirement Office to discuss the option of Virtual Notarization if they have difficulty finding a local in person notary.
- Update on Susan Sullivan matter - The Executive Director advised the Board that she has not received any response to her June 23, 2021 letter to Kerry Sullivan. Board Counsel suggested sending a second letter via First Class mail and Certified mail.
- The Executive Director advised the Board that PERAC Actuary, John Boorack, is scheduled to come to next month's meeting to discuss the Actuarial Valuation results.

The following vouchers were approved for payment:

|   |              |
|---|--------------|
| City of Chelsea – Reimb. Postage Meter      | \$ 210.28    |
| Falmouth Retirement System 3(8)(c)          | \$ 1,551.40  |
| Brian P. Monahan, Esq.                      | \$ 4,500.00  |
| Ricoh USA, Inc.                             | \$ 135.25    |
| W.B. Mason                                  | \$ 308.04    |
| Francisco A. Lemus Refund                   | \$ 14,953.84 |
| City of Chelsea-Federal Taxes-Lemus         | \$ 3,738.46  |
| Mass. Teachers Retirement- Transfer-Pothier | \$ 331.88    |
| Mass. Teachers Retirement-Transfer-Malek    | \$ 1,522.76  |

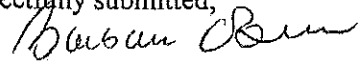
The Retiree and Staff payroll warrants were approved.

Distribution of:

- PERAC Memo #21/2021-Cost of Living Increase for Supplemental Dependent Allowance Paid to Accidental Disability Retirees and Accidental Death Survivors
- PERAC January 1, 2021 Actuarial Valuation Results letter dated August 16, 2021
- PRIT Balance Sheets, Cash Pages, Bank Statements and Bank Reconciliations for January 2021-April 2021
- Michael McLaughlin matter: Both the Post- Hearing Memorandum of Law filed by the Executive Director and the Post- Hearing Brief filed by the Member were received on August 8, 2021.

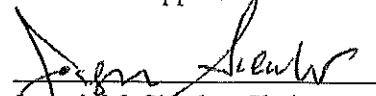
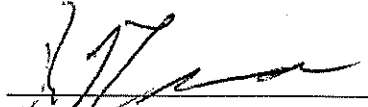

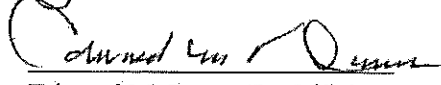
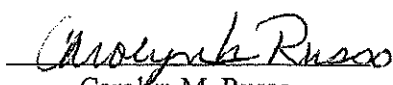
At 9:50 AM Mr. Carroccino made a motion seconded by Ms. Watson Fisher to adjourn. The votes were as follows:  
Chairman Siewko:Yea Mr. Dunn:Yea Ms. Russo:Yea Ms. Watson Fisher:Yea Mr. Carroccino: Yea

Respectfully submitted,



Barbara O'Brien  
Executive Director

Members' Approval:

  
Joseph M. Siewko, Chairman  
Richard Carroccino  
Cheryl Watson Fisher  
Edward M. Dunn, Ex Officio  
Carolyn M. Russo