

CHELSEA RETIREMENT BOARD MEETING
500 Broadway, Chelsea MA, Conference Room of the Chelsea City Council
Minutes from the Meeting held on Thursday, July 21, 2022 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: Mr. Michael Nicolazzo, Executive Director, Mrs. Cindy Donarumo, Assistant Director and Mr. Brian P. Monahan, Esq., Board Counsel

At 9:05 AM Chairman Siewko opened the meeting.

First item on the agenda is the Michael McLaughlin special hearing. After the Board's discussion, the hearing is scheduled for August 17, 2022.

Chairman Siewko stated that the next item on the agenda are the 91A Termination Hearings:

- 9:30- David Aponte
- 10:30- John Nazzaro
- 10:45- Antonio Salvucci II

Executive Director Michael Nicolazzo addressed the Board that two retirees are listed in PERAC as still being non-compliant. Mr. Nazzaro has documentation being delivered today to PERAC per the tracking number that was given to the Retirement Office. Mr. Salvucci is listed as incomplete status as he needs to supply 1040 to PERAC. Board Counsel's suggestion would be to table the matter for one month so that each retiree can complete the process of submitting the required paperwork to PERAC.

At 9:08 AM Ms. Fisher made a motion seconded by Mr. Carroccino to table the 91A Termination Hearings for David Aponte and Antonio Salvucci, II for one month pending the receipt of the requested documentation by PERAC. The votes were as follows: The votes were as follows: Chairman Siewko:Yea Mr. Dunn:Yea Ms. Russo:Yea Ms. Watson Fisher:Yea Mr. Carroccino: Yea

The next item on the agenda is Renata Cowhig's Application for Disability Retirement and Employer's Statement.

At 9:08 AM Ms. Fisher made a motion seconded by Mr. Dunn to enter into Executive Session under Purposes 1 and 7 of the Open Meeting Law to discuss protected medical information relating to Renata Cowhig's Application for Disability Retirement. The votes were as follows: Chairman Siewko:Yea Mr. Dunn:Yea Ms. Russo:Yea Ms. Watson Fisher:Yea Mr. Carroccino: Yea.

At 9:31 AM the Board returned to Regular Session.

At 9:31 AM Mr. Dunn made a motion seconded by Ms. Fisher to table Renata Cowhig's Application for Disability Retirement so that the Board can obtain the remaining requested medical records. The votes

were as follows: Chairman Siewko:Yea Mr. Dunn:Yea Ms. Russo:Yea Ms. Watson Fisher:Yea Mr. Carroccino: Yea.

Next item on the agenda is the review of the draft Employment Policies. Board Counsel suggested to the Board not to adopt the Chelsea Retirement Employment Policies until the City of Chelsea Policies have been finalized.

At 9:38 AM Ms. Fisher made a motion seconded by Ms. Russo to table the finalization of the Board's Employment Policies. The votes were as follows: Chairman Siewko:Yea Mr. Dunn:Yea Ms. Russo:Yea Ms. Watson Fisher:Yea Mr. Carroccino: Yea.

Chairman Siewko stated that the next item on the agenda is Edward Marchese's 91A Overearnings payment.

At 9:45 AM Mr. Dunn made a motion second seconded by Ms. Russo asking the Executive Director to send Mr. Marchese a letter advising him that the overpayment of earnings is due no later than August 27, 2022 and if payment is not received by the due date, payment will be deducted from Mr. Marchese's August retirement payment. The votes were as follows: Chairman Siewko:Yea Mr. Dunn:Yea Ms. Russo:Yea Ms. Watson Fisher:Yea Mr. Carroccino: Yea.

David Belanger's Liability Request from MWRA.

At 9:53 AM Mr. Dunn made a motion seconded by Mr. Carroccino to table the matter until further documentation is received from Human Resources and Payroll. The votes were as follows: Chairman Siewko:Yea Mr. Dunn:Yea Ms. Russo:Present Ms. Watson Fisher:Yea Mr. Carroccino: Yea.

Chairman Siewko stated that the next item on the agenda is Gabriel Ruiz' Request to Purchase Reserve Fire Service.

At 9:57 AM Ms. Fisher made a motion seconded by Mr. Carroccino to approve Mr. Ruiz to purchase reserve fire service upon submission of an Affidavit that no compensation was received as a Reserve Firefighter. The votes were as follows: Chairman Siewko:Yea Mr. Dunn:Yea Ms. Russo:Yea Ms. Watson Fisher:Yea Mr. Carroccino: Yea.

Eric Montefusco estimate with periods of Short Term Disability.

At 10:00 AM Mr. Dunn made a motion seconded by Ms. Fisher to adjust Mr. Montefusco's creditable service on account of unpaid leaves of service under Section 4(1)(c). The votes were as follows: Chairman Siewko:Yea Mr. Dunn:Yea Ms. Russo:Yea Ms. Watson Fisher:Yea Mr. Carroccino: Yea.

Service Purchases involving liability from other retirement systems tabled from June 16, 2022 Board meeting.

At 10:08 Ms. Russo made a motion seconded by Ms. Fisher to ask PERAC for an opinion on which provision service be calculated for liability from other systems. The votes were as follows: Chairman Siewko:Yea Mr. Dunn:Yea Ms. Russo:Yea Ms. Watson Fisher:Yea Mr. Carroccino: Yea.

Next item on the agenda, Regular Compensation: Interpreter Compensation and Lead Pilot Pay.

At 10:10 AM Ms. Russo made a motion seconded by Ms. Fisher to include stipends part of the Interpreter Pay as regular compensation and earnings for Trust Visits and Lead Pilot not be considered regular compensation. The votes were as follows: Chairman Siewko:Yea Mr. Dunn:Yea Ms. Russo:Yea Ms. Watson Fisher:Yea Mr. Carroccino: Yea.

Approval of the Regular Session Minutes of the June 16, 2022 Retirement Board meeting.

At 10:15 AM Mr. Dunn made a motion seconded by Mr. Carroccino to approve the Regular Session Minutes of June 16, 2022 as amended. The votes were as follows: Chairman Siewko:Yea Mr. Dunn:Yea Ms. Russo:Yea Ms. Watson Fisher:Yea Mr. Carroccino: Yea.

Approval of the Executive Session Minutes of the June 16, 2022 Retirement Board Meeting.

At 10:16 Mr. Dunn made a motion seconded by Ms. Fisher to approve the Execution Session Minutes of June 16, 2022 as amended. 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 3/5 Yr. Average
Roger DiGaetano/Patrolman/4	07/27/2022	65	35.0000	73,163.19 (3)
Correction to John Faulstich/Plumber-Mechanic/1	08/31/2022	59	27.5000	*86,257.47 (3)
Deborah Homola/Para/1	06/24/2022	64	10.0000	33,886.76 (5)
Barbara Melesciuc/Food Service Cafeteria/1	06/27/2022	62	23.4167	28,070.03 (3)

*Retirement approved in June, but Mr. Dunn requested confirmation of member's high 3 average. It was determined that the average approved at the June meeting was incorrect.

At 10:18 AM Mr. Carroccino made a motion seconded by Ms. Russo to approve the above superannuation 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 System has requested the transfer of funds for the following member:

Name/Title/Group	Board Requesting Transfer	Accumulated Deductions	Total Service Credit / 3(8)c Liability	10/12 Month Basis
Wendy Tavico/Payroll Supervisor/1	Brookline	96,684.69	4.4167	12

At 10:19 AM Ms. Fisher made a motion seconded by Mr. Carroccino to approved the above transfer. 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 requested a refund of their accumulated deductions:

Name/Title/Group	Accumulated Deductions	Age	Service Credit	Taxes Withheld
Sandra Contreras/Nurse's Aide/1	935.69	57	0.5000	Yes
Carla Marie Richman/ Para/1	17,510.38	51	6.3333	Yes

At 10:19 AM Mr. Dunn made a motion seconded by Ms. Fisher to approved the above refunds. The votes were as follows: Chairman Siewko:Yea Mr. Dunn:Yea Ms. Russo:Yea Ms. Watson Fisher:Yea Mr. Carroccino: Yea.

The following members will be refunded erroneous contributions as follows:

Name/Title/Group	Gross Refund Due	Reason	Taxes Withheld
Laurie Mercurio/Para/1	695.55	Retirement contributions withheld from un pensionable compensation for substituting	Yes

At 10:20 AM Ms. Russo made a motion seconded by Ms. 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:

- The Employee Handbook is still in the draft stage.
- Michael McLaughlin special hearing has been scheduled for August 17, 2022 and reminded the Board that the Motion to Recuse needs to be addressed before the deliberations begin and that the Board should review the binders prior to the meeting.

Executive Director's Report:

- Payment for 2019, 2020 and 2021 State 3(8)(c) bills are overdue. The 2019 invoice is on the July AP Warrant and asked the Board when the remaining invoices can be paid. The Board agreed to pay the remaining invoices as long as there are sufficient funds.
- The Executive Director brought an issue to the Board's attention regarding the allocation of COLA allowances involving retirees with a DRO. When applying the FY 2023 COLA, it was discovered that the COLA for retiree William Abramofsky's account had been overpaid starting with the July 31, 2018 direct deposit due to the way that PTG software applies COLA benefits to retirees' accounts who have an alternate payee. Initially, the COLA was only being applied to Mr. Abramofsky, but starting with the July 31, 2018 direct deposit, COLA allocations were applied to both payees. It was also discovered that the DRO did not specify that the alternate payee was entitled to COLA. It was determined that Mr. Abramofsky is owed a refund due to the

underpayment of COLA and Ms. Denning owes the retirement system for the overpayment of benefits. The Board instructed the Executive Director to rectify the issue with both Mr. Abramofsky and Ms. Denning.

- The Executive Director brought to the Board's attention that the Commissioner of DPW came by the office to see the utilization of space as DPW is in the beginning stages of a complete configuration layout of City Hall offices.

July 2022 Cash Disbursements Warrant approved

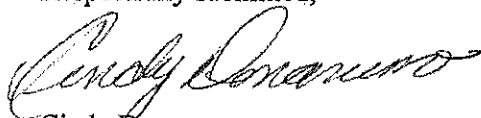
Retiree payroll and Staff payroll approved

Retirement Staff pay increases approved

Distribution of:

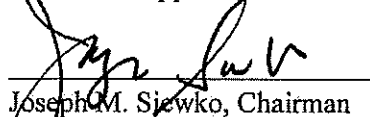
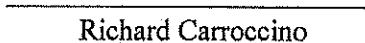
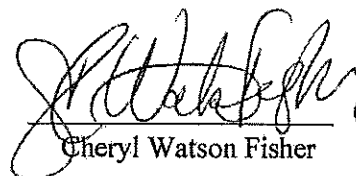

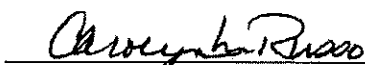
- February and March 2022 Cashbooks, Bank Statement, Bank Reconciliation, PRIT Balance Sheet
- PERAC Memo #15/2022
- PERAC Memo #16/2022
- PERAC Memo #17/2022
- PERAC Memo #18/2022

Respectfully submitted,



Cindy Donarumo
Assistant Director

Members' Approval:


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

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