

NEWTON RETIREMENT BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, March 28, 2023 – 9:00 a.m.

Location: Newton City Hall, Room #211

RESENT: Chairman Thomas Lopez, Anthony Logalbo, Kelly Byrne, Stephen Curley, Lisa Maloney, Esq., Barbara O'Brien, Scenia Saintcy, Deirdre Walsh, and Assistant City Solicitor/Retirement Board Counsel Jaclyn Zawada

GUESTS: Mayor Ruthanne Fuller, City of Newton Chief Financial Officer Maureen LeMieux, Newton City Council President Susan Albright, School Committee Member Christopher Brezski, and others

RECORD: Record in minutes Chairman Lopez opened the meeting at 9:00 a.m. and announced that the Board would be conducting a public hearing for the purpose of determining the FY 24 retiree cost-of-living increase. There being no public comments from anyone in the room, the Chair concluded the public comment period and closed the public hearing at 9:02 a.m.

RECORD: Record in minutes that Mayor Ruthanne Fuller requested that 1.) the Retirement Board consider increasing the COLA base to \$13,000 in FY 24, \$14,000 in FY 25 and \$15,000 in FY 26; 2.) the Board's Actuary, Kathleen Riley from Segal Associates, be asked to provide a cost analysis regarding the proposed incremental COLA base increases; 3.) the Retirement Board consider extending the funding schedule to FY 32; and 4.) the Retirement Board schedule a Special meeting that would align with the City's budget planning process to discuss this proposal and review the Actuary's cost estimate.

RECORD: Record in minutes that Mayor Fuller stated that she would prefer to work on increasing the COLA base rather than making a recommendation to City Council to approve Chapter 269 of the Acts of 2022 which would provide a one-time COLA increase from 3% to 5% of the \$12,000 base to all eligible benefit recipients for FY 23.

RECORD: Record in minutes Newton City Council President Susan Albright read a written statement she prepared with School Committee Member Christopher Brezski which set forth various rates of growth, proposed funding schedules for the Newton Retirement System, and the resulting impact on the City's budget and City and School services; she referenced the studies of the working group which includes City Council President Albright and Councilors Grossman, Lipof and Markiewicz, as well as School Committee Member Brezski.

RECORD: Record in minutes that in addition to other attendees, Mayor Fuller, Chief Financial Officer Maureen LeMieux, Council President Susan Albright and School Committee Member Chris Brezski left the meeting at approximately 9:55 A.M.

VOTED: Record in minutes the Board voted, by a vote of 5-0, to approve Firefighter Andrew Handler's application for an ordinary disability retirement pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 32, Section 6.

VOTED: Record in minutes the Board voted, by a vote of 5-0, to approve the regular session minutes of the meeting held on February 21, 2023.

VOTED: Record in minutes the Board voted, by a vote of 5-0, to approve the executive session minutes of the meeting held on February 21, 2023.

VOTED: Record in minutes the Board voted, by a vote of 5-0, to approve the PERAC Annual Statement for year ending December 31, 2022.

VOTED: Record in minutes the Board voted, by a vote of 5-0, to approve the monthly financial reporting for month ending January 2023 (trial balance, related journals, MMDT/Eastern bank statements, MMDT/Eastern Bank reconciliations, asset allocation, expense budget to actual comparison and cash flow forecast) as prepared by Director O'Brien.

VOTED: Record in minutes the Board voted, by a vote of 5-0, to approve the acceptance of the following new members:

<u>Last Name</u>	<u>First Name</u>	<u>Group</u>	<u>Date of Membership</u>	<u>Department</u>	<u>Position</u>
Abel	Rachel	1	02/01/23	School	Teacher Aide
Abu-Rubieh	Ramzy	1	02/01/23	School	Teacher Aide
Aridou	Kesha	1	02/01/23	School	Teacher Aide
Bartkus	Kelly	1	02/01/23	School	Teacher Aide
Barry	Peter	1	02/01/23	School	Teacher Aide
Cameron	Teresa	1	02/01/23	School	Teacher Aide
Camilli	Daniel	1	02/01/23	School	Teacher Aide
Casas	Pablo	1	02/01/23	School	Teacher Aide
Charles-Danjour	Iphigenie	1	02/01/23	School	Teacher Aide
Collins	Morgan	1	02/01/23	School	Teacher Aide
Beaudry	Brittany	1	01/23/23	School	Teacher Aide
Blumenthal	Deborah	1	02/13/23	School	Teacher Aide
Craig	Cassandra	1	02/13/23	School	Teacher Aide
Looper	Michael	1	02/13/23	Public Works	Survey Technician
Knight	Nina	1	02/15/23	School	Teacher Aide
Bell	Mykaela	1	02/16/23	School	Teacher Aide
Correia	Josyane	1	02/16/23	School	Teacher Aide
Cusack	Joseph	1	02/16/23	School	Teacher Aide
Da Veiga	Nuria	1	02/16/23	School	Teacher Aide
Lenane	Stephen	1	02/16/23	School	Teacher Aide
Matthews	Alethia	1	02/16/23	School	Teacher Aide
Picciuto	Patrick	1	02/16/23	School	Teacher Aide
Rubino	Angelina	1	02/16/23	School	Teacher Aide
Sofronova	Iva	1	02/16/23	School	Teacher Aide
Walker	Justin	1	02/16/23	School	Teacher Aide
Woodbury	Sarah	1	02/16/23	School	Teacher Aide
Sandoval	Alyssa	1	02/21/23	Planning	Deputy Chief Planner
Engel	Lauren	1	02/01/23	School	Teacher Aide
Housman	Sarah	1	01/30/23	School	Executive Assistant
Braceland	Michael	4	02/27/23	Fire	Firefighter
Camilli	Matthew	4	02/27/23	Fire	Firefighter
Charlot	Francoise	1	02/27/23	Human Resources	Deputy Director HR
Cutter	Lindsay	1	02/27/23	School	Teacher Aide
Iadonisi	Joseph	1	02/27/23	Planning	Planning Associate
Kazarian	Matthew	4	02/27/23	Fire	Firefighter
McGary	Richard	4	02/27/23	Fire	Firefighter

Rowe	Kyla	1	02/27/23	School	Teacher Aide
Sarno	Benita	1	02/27/23	Health & Human Serv	School Nurse
Taranto	Gaetano	4	02/27/23	Fire	Firefighter
Carpenter Bernier	Katherine	1	03/01/23	School	Director NCE
Castillo Cuevas	Deray	1	03/01/23	School	Teacher Aide
Chikere	Ngozi	1	03/01/23	School	Teacher Aide
Jordan	Kaylyn	1	03/06/23	School	Teacher Aide
Lima	Miguel	1	03/13/23	DPW	Transportation Clerk
Daniels	Adryen	1	02/27/23	School	Teacher Aide
Yoan-Knuth	Jennie	1	03/02/23	School	Teacher Aide
Hernandez	Javier	1	03/13/23	DPW	Superintendent of Fleet
James	Olivia	1	03/13/23	Planning	Comm Engagement Spec
Liu	Chuling	1	03/13/23	DPW	Accounting Specialist
McIntyre	Allison	1	03/13/23	Planning	Housing Dev. Planner
Torre	Dominic	1	03/13/23	DPW	HMEO
Blouin	Helena	1	03/16/23	School	Teacher Aide
Dias	Anastacia	1	03/16/23	School	Teacher Aide
Doucette	Shannon	1	03/16/23	School	Teacher Aide
Hintermeister	Henry	1	03/16/23	School	Teacher Aide
Hutchinson	Marissa	1	03/16/93	School	Teacher Aide
Kelliher	Jessica	1	03/16/93	School	Teacher Aide
Louissaint	Stacy	1	03/16/23	School	Teacher Aide
Smith	Allison	1	03/16/23	School	Teacher Aide
Walker	Harper	1	03/16/23	School	Teacher Aide
Harrington	John	1	03/15/23	School	Teacher Aide

VOTED:

Record in minutes the Board voted, by a vote of 5-0, to approve the following expense warrants:

Warrant # C2-23	03/29/2023	Federal tax deposit funding re: member account disbursements	\$ 9,071.09
Warrant # 06-23	03/29/2023	Administrative expense/member account disbursements	\$ 1,134,030.31
Warrant # 07-23	03/29/2023	1st Quarter 2023 Staff salary expense	\$ 68,065.27
Warrant # 08-23	03/28/2023	03/31/2023 Contributory pension payroll	\$ 4,040,166.80

VOTED:

Record in minutes that the Board voted, by a vote of 5-0, to request that the System's Actuary, Kathleen Riley, prepare an additional draft funding schedule in accordance with Mayor Fuller's proposal that would provide for a \$13,000 COLA base in FY 24, a \$14,000 COLA base in FY 25, a \$15,000 COLA base in FY 26 and fully fund the Newton Retirement System by FY 32.

VOTED:

Record in minutes that the Board voted, by a vote of 5-0, to ask the System's Actuary, Kathleen Riley, to prepare an additional draft funding schedule based on the proposal of the working group, that incorporates the incremental COLA base increases proposed by Mayor Fuller, and that fully funds the Newton Retirement System between FY 33 and FY 35.

RECORD: Record in minutes that the Board decided that a phone call would be made to Ms. Riley to request the additional funding schedules as outlined in the two preceding votes, an estimated completion date, and her availability to attend a special Retirement Board meeting to review the results if requested.

RECORD: Record in minutes that after discussion relating to PERAC's February 22, 2023, response to Newton Retirement Board's February 10, 2023, request for clarification regarding the application of the Supreme Judicial Court's decision in *Retirement Board of Stoneham v. Contributory Retirement Appeal Board & another* SJC-12098 December 22, 2016 (i.e., "Once a Member Always a Member"), it was determined that Director O'Brien would send a request for clarification to PERAC. No action was taken by the Board.

RECORD: Record in minutes that no action was taken by the Board with respect to the 5% Local COLA Option memo provided to Mayor Fuller on February 22, 2023.

RECORD: Chairman Lopez reported that Michelle Pizzi O'Brien, Human Resources Director, requested a meeting with himself and Retirement Director O'Brien to meet the new Human Resources Deputy Director, Francoise Charlot, to discuss the difficulties that the City is having relative to retaining and producing pre-employment physicals and the mechanisms that are now in place to resolve those issues. Retirement Director O'Brien has reached out to the Human Resources Director to set up a meeting. No action was taken by the Board.

RECORD: Record in minutes that the following updates were provided regarding pending disability retirement applications:

Applicant	Dept.	Current Status
Kevin Flynn	Fire	3/24/23 requested Medical Panel Appts (2 appts scheduled 4/8/23 and 4/25/23)
Lawrence J. Podoiske	Fire	Board Staff is in process of collecting medical records

RECORD: Record in minutes that Board Counsel Zawada provided the following updates on pending appeal matters: 1.) Susan Cellucci's counsel filed a Motion to Dismiss and 2.) DALA advised that the Kimberly Vanaman's appeal will be decided on the papers.

Upon motion duly made and seconded it was voted, by a vote of 5-0, to adjourn at 10:48 a.m.

Signed:

Thomas Lopez, Chairman/Elected Member

Anthony T. Logalbo, Vice Chairman/Mayoral Appointee

Kelly Byrne, Elected Member

Stephen Curley, Ex-Officio Member

Lisa M. Maloney, Esq., Appointed Member