

**NEWTON RETIREMENT BOARD MEETING**

**Tuesday, September 26, 2023 – 9:00 a.m.**

**Location: Newton City Hall, Room B15**

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

**GUESTS:** Newton Resident David Helfman, and City of Newton's Manager of Financial Planning and Analysis Perry Rosenfield

*Anthony Logalbo participated remotely via Zoom software as his physical attendance at the meeting was deemed unreasonably difficult. All votes were taken by roll call vote.*

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**RECORD:** Record in minutes that Chairman Lopez stated that he will take agenda items out of order and address the disability applications at the end of the meeting since the Board will be entering Executive Session.

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**VOTED:** Record in minutes the Board voted, by a vote of 5-0, to approve the regular session minutes of the meeting held on August 22, 2023.

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**VOTED:** Record in minutes the Board voted, by a vote of 5-0, to approve the executive session minutes of the meeting held on August 22, 2023.

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**VOTED:** Record in minutes the Board voted, by a vote of 5-0, to approve payment of a \$1,500 annual stipend effective July 1, 2023, to City of Newton Treasurer Manuel R. Mendes pursuant to M.G.L. c. 20(4), \$750 being paid each January and July for the prior six months.

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**RECORD:** Record in minutes that the Board discussed whether or not to approve adopting a marital status affidavit. No action was taken by the Board.

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**VOTED:** Record in minutes that the Board voted, by a vote of 4-0, Maloney voting Present, to approve the posting as prepared by Director O'Brien for the 3-year term of the fifth member position which is currently held by Lisa Maloney, Esq., and is due to expire on January 1, 2024. As discussed, Director O'Brien will post the position, requesting that applicants send a letter of interest and resume to Director O'Brien by 5 p.m. October 20, 2023, on the City, Board and PERAC websites. The Board plans to review all filings at their October 24, 2023, meeting.

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**VOTED:** Record in minutes the Board voted, by a vote of 5-0, to approve the attendance of staff, Board members and Board Counsel at the 2023 MACRS Fall Conference and have their expenses covered pursuant to the Board's travel regulations.

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**RECORD:** Record in minutes Director O'Brien reported that currently 1.8% of the 2023 Annual Affidavits remain outstanding following the issuance of third notices on August 29, 2023, and advised that staff will continue their efforts in collecting these outstanding affidavits. As discussed, after further notification and beginning with the October 2023 retirement allowance payments, any pension recipients with outstanding affidavits will have their Direct Deposit changed to check and payment will be withheld until affidavit is received. No action was taken by the Board.

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**VOTED:** Record in minutes the Board voted, by a vote of 5-0, to approve the monthly financial reporting for month ending July 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:

Last Name	First Name	Group	Date of Membership	Department	Position
Enman	Kevin	1	08/07/23	Newton Housing	Groundskeeper/Custod
Delicata	Michael	1	08/14/23	Public Works	Motor Equip Repair
Finn	Andrew	1	08/14/23	Police	Emergency Dispatch
Leary	Melanie	1	08/14/23	School	Accounting Assistant
Barton	Courtenay	1	08/24/23	Library	SR Library Asst
Ayala	Nancy	1	08/30/23	School	Teacher Aide
Barros	Eza	1	08/30/23	School	Teacher Aide
Bembery	Edward	1	08/30/23	School	Teacher Aide
Bonino	Alexander	1	08/30/23	School	Teacher Aide
Brien	Kristen	1	08/30/23	School	Teacher Aide
Driscoll	Joelle	1	08/30/23	School	Teacher Aide
Fouracre	Jasmine	1	08/30/23	School	Teacher Aide
Galvan	Virginia	1	08/30/23	School	Teacher Aide
Bazile	Roniphael	1	09/01/23	School	Athletic Trainer
Gondek	Mackenzie	1	08/30/23	School	Teacher Aide
Green	Robert	1	08/30/23	School	Teacher Aide
Hernandez	Mark	1	08/30/23	School	Teacher Aide
Jones	Miracle	1	08/30/23	School	Teacher Aide
Kelley	Sarah	1	08/30/23	School	Teacher Aide
Lee	Hyunkyung	1	08/30/23	School	Teacher Aide
Leibowitz	Kaitlyn	1	08/30/23	School	Teacher Aide
Lewis	Sandra	1	08/30/23	School	Teacher Aide
Malaguti	William	1	08/30/23	School	Teacher Aide
Martinez	Elineidy	1	08/30/23	School	Teacher Aide
McAuley	Cameron	1	08/30/23	School	Teacher Aide
Monroe	Sarema	1	08/30/23	School	Teacher Aide
Muniz	Eric	1	08/30/23	School	Teacher Aide
Rofrano	Julie	1	08/30/23	School	Teacher Aide
Searles	Alexis	1	08/30/23	School	Teacher Aide
Spriggs	Deseree	1	08/30/23	School	Teacher Aide
Stanley	Calvin	1	08/30/23	School	Teacher Aide
Stephens	Isabel	1	08/30/23	School	Teacher Aide
Strick	Megan	1	08/30/23	School	Teacher Aide
Vail	Shahana	1	08/30/23	School	Teacher Aide
Van Putten	Jean	1	08/30/23	School	ISS
Xega	Katherine	1	08/30/23	School	Teacher Aide
Berkowitz	Ermantine	1	08/31/23	Health & Human Serv	School Nurse
Fillion	Margeaux	1	08/30/23	Health & Human Serv	School Nurse
La Scala	Regina	1	09/01/23	School	Teacher Aide
Proia	Marissa	1	09/01/23	School	Teacher Aide
Acosta	Robin	1	08/30/23	School	Teacher Aide

Broughton	Shelby	1	08/30/23	School	Teacher Aide
Brown	Mary	1	08/30/23	School	Teacher Aide
Fustamante	Kayla	1	08/30/23	School	Teacher Aide
Gorohovsky	Tatjana	1	08/30/23	School	Teacher Aide
Jones	Albayyinah	1	08/30/23	School	Teacher Aide
Lorenzo	Karina	1	08/30/23	School	Teacher Aide
Muratori	Anthony	1	08/30/23	School	Teacher Aide
Pena	Ana	1	08/30/23	School	Teacher Aide
Rubin	Cindy	1	08/30/23	School	Teacher Aide
Schwarzman	Katarzyna	1	08/30/23	School	Teacher Aide
Seaforth	Kenyetta	1	08/30/23	School	Teacher Aide
Smyth	Erin	1	08/30/23	School	Teacher Aide
Trueblood	Amy	1	08/30/23	School	Teacher Aide
Vacca	Claire	1	08/31/23	School	Teacher Aide
LaBaire	Sarah	1	09/05/23	School	Teacher Aide
Lerman	Ahron	1	09/05/23	Parks & Recreation	Asst Dir Prks & Open Space
Lynch	Frederick	1	09/05/23	Public Works	HME0
Mastroianni	Marcello	1	09/05/23	Public Works	HME0
Mei	Lei Qing	1	09/05/23	School	Teacher Aide
Nolan	Kelly	1	09/05/23	School	Teacher Aide
Yaremchuk	Snizhana	1	09/05/23	School	Teacher Aide
Stang-Osborne	Johan	1	09/07/23	School	Teacher Aide
Macphee	Tiffany	1	09/11/23	School	Teacher Aide

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VOTED: Record in minutes the Board voted, by a vote of 5-0, to approve the following application(s) for superannuation retirement pursuant to G.L. c. 32, §5. Retirement Board staff has verified that the necessary paperwork is in order and determined all applicant(s) to be eligible for such benefits:

Member	Position	Dept.	Date of Retirement
Henry Langevin	Truck Driver	DPW	8/31/2023
Ginko Isobe	ELL Aide	School	6/30/2023
Kevin Cassidy	Custodian	School	9/30/2023

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

Warrant #	Date	Description	Amount
Warrant # 20-23	09-27-2023	Administrative expense/member account disbursements	\$ 155,270.91
Warrant #C7-23	09-27-2023	Federal tax deposit funding re: member account disbursements	\$ 9,967.47
Warrant # 21-23	09-27-2023	09/29/2023 Contributory pension payroll	\$ 4,027,480.54
Warrant # 22-23	09-27-2023	3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter 2023 Staff salary expense	\$ 69,112.39

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RECORD: Record in minutes Director O'Brien reported that current Board Chairman, Thomas Lopez, was the sole candidate who submitted certified nomination papers for the 3rd Elected Member position on the Board. An Election by Declaration is scheduled for the October 24, 2023, Board meeting.

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RECORD: Record in minutes that Chairman Lopez provided an update regarding the meeting held on September 19, 2023, with Board Director O'Brien, Human Resources (HR) Director Michelle Pizzi O'Brien, HR Deputy Director Francoise Charlot, Chief Financial Officer Maureen LeMieux, and Manager of Financial Planning and Analysis Perry Rosenfield. HR Director Pizzi O'Brien reported that the HR Department is

still in the process of conducting an audit to determine the extent of the number of missing pre-employment physicals and that the audit is currently focusing on the City's Group 4 members. Chairman Lopez reported that short-term and long-term suggestions were made relative to maintaining and producing pre-employment physicals going forward. Chairman Lopez reported that HR suggested monthly meetings with Retirement Staff to discuss this and any other issues. No action was taken by the Board.

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

Applicant	Dept.	Current Status
Joshua Richardson	DPW	Disability Transmittal approved by PERAC on 8/28/23
Dawn Fleming	Police	Medical Panel Appts scheduled for 9/7/23, 9/25/23 & 9/28/23; 1 of 3 Medical Panel Certs & Narratives received.

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RECORD: Record in minutes that Board Counsel Zawada provided the following updates regarding pending appeal cases:

- Kimberley Vanaman, Paula Fallon, Elizabeth Whittum and Edith Goethals-Board Counsel agreed to provide an extension to opposing Counsel. Opposing Counsel will file Memorandum by October 20, 2023, and Board Counsel, if necessary, will file response by November 10, 2023.
- Lee Gilliam-Opposing Counsel will be filing a joint memo soon.

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RECORD: Record in minutes that City of Newton's Manager of Financial Planning and Analysis Perry Rosenfield and Newton Resident David Helfman left the meeting at approximately 10:01 a.m.

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VOTED: Record in minutes that, at 10:02 AM, the Board voted, by a vote of 5-0, to enter into Executive Session pursuant to Purpose 7 of the Open Meeting Law : "To comply with, or act under the authority of, any general...law", that law being Exemption (c) of the Public Records Law (G.L., c. 4, s. 7(26) (c) to discuss the following members for whom disability applications have been received: retired Police Officer Russell Adam, Firefighter Aaron MacGovern, Police Officer Lisa Mikoleit, and Police Sergeant Bradford Leitch and to then reconvene in Open Session.

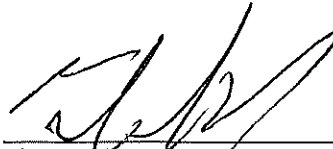
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RECORD: Record in minutes that upon the Board's return to Open Session at 10:42 a.m., Chairman Lopez announced that the Board, while in Executive Session, voted as follows:

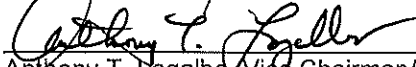
- By a vote of 3-2 with Logalbo and Maloney voting No, the Board voted to approve retired Police Officer Russell Adam's application for disability retirement.
- By a vote of 5-0, the Board voted to accept Firefighter Aaron MacGovern's application for disability retirement and to request that PERAC convene a Medical Panel.
- By a vote of 3-2 with Logalbo and Maloney voting No, the Board voted to approve Police Officer Lisa Mikoleit's application for disability retirement.
- By a vote of 5-0, the Board voted to accept Police Sergeant Aaron Leitch's application for disability retirement and to request that PERAC convene a Medical Panel.

Upon motion duly made and seconded it was voted, by a vote of 5-0, to adjourn at 10:43 a.m.

Signed:



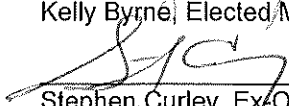
Thomas Lopez, Chairman/Elected Member



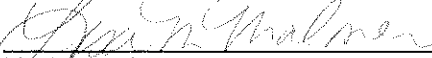
Anthony T. Logalbo, Vice Chairman/Mayoral Appointee



Kelly Byrne, Elected Member



Stephen Curley, Ex-Officio Member



Lisa M. Maloney, Esq., Appointed Member