

Belmont Contributory Retirement Board

Minutes of Meeting of January 24, 2022

Meeting Conducted Pursuant to Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021

Board Members Present: Thomas Gibson, Chair; Glen Castro (remote); Floyd Carman (remote); Ross Vona; Walter Wellman (remote).

Staff Present: Robert Soohoo; Ryan Horan.

Guests (remote): Scott Driscoll, NEPC; James Quirk, Board Attorney; George Sharis, NCG.

Identified Public Attendees (remote): Ted Pendergast, Operations Manager Public Safety Communications; Tom O'Brien, Public Safety Communications Dispatcher; Mark Hurley, Police Sargent; Jim Riccio, Public Safety Communications Dispatcher; Samuel Hooper, With.Intelligence; Tom Caputo, Town Select Board; Gar Chung, Financial News.

Mr. Gibson called the meeting to order at 9:16 am.

Board Meeting Minutes: December minutes were not available. Will be reviewed for approval in the February 2022 Meeting.

Review of Investments with NEPC: Mr. Driscoll reviewed the System's performance through December 2021. The plan returned 14.6% YTD, not including PRIM's December returns which are not yet available. Mr. Driscoll reviewed the performance of the markets since the selloff in March of 2020. He noted the recent selloff in China has affected the market in general. Inflation in 2021 was noted to be at the highest level since 1981. Mr. Driscoll then discuss the possible multiple interest rate hikes for the next few years and the possibility of 2 or 3 rate hikes in 2022. Atlanta Capital was noted to have advantageous returns in the down market in Q4. Once all returns are in, it is expected that investment returns for the 2021 will be around 15%. Mr. Driscoll will review updated values and provide recommendation for the recently received appropriation funds. Mr. Driscoll will send a flash report containing PRIM's performance once available.

Future Meeting Dates: February 28, 2022, March 28, 2022; April 25, 2022; May 31, 2022.

Scott Driscoll exited the meeting at 09:52 am.

Board Counsel Report: Mr. Quirk discussed the supplemental regulation on Group 2 classification for dispatchers . Mr. Gibson provided a history of the position to the Board members for context. On February 14th he will appear before the Select Board to advise regarding the potential need for special legislation to maintain Belmont Dispatchers in Group 2. The Board discussed the issues with job titles and descriptions and made further suggestions.

Motion by Mr. Vona, seconded by Mr. Wellman, to adopt the supplemental regulation provided by Mr. Quirk to classify Belmont Dispatchers in Group 2 and to submit to PERAC for approval.

Roll Call:

Mr. Castro	Yes
Mr. Vona	Yes
Mr. Carman	Yes
Mr. Gibson	Yes
Mr. Wellman	Yes

The Motion passed.

Report of the Executive Director: Mr. Soohoo reported that we have not received all 2021 deductions from the Belmont Housing Authority, which delays refunds/rollovers and closing out 2021. The BHA's final appropriation payment for FY 2022 due January 1, 2022 has not been received. The Board instructed Mr. Soohoo to explain further the issues caused by the delay and request immediate payment. Mr. Soohoo discussed a recently deceased inactive member.

After inquiry from a town resident, Staff reviewed the Powers & Sullivan Financial Statement as of December 31, 2020 with NEPC. Recommendations were made to Powers & Sullivan, which were incorporated in a revised Statement. The revised Statement will be distributed accordingly. The town resident was provided with responses to his inquiry.

Motion by Mr. Vona, seconded by Mr. Wellman, to approve the revised Basic Financial Statement as of December 31, 2020 by Powers & Sullivan.

Roll Call:

Mr. Castro	Yes
Mr. Vona	Yes
Mr. Carman	Yes
Mr. Gibson	Yes
Mr. Wellman	Yes

The Motion passed.

Cash Books have been submitted to PERAC through November 2021, December cash books will be completed once all deductions are processed and all accounts are balanced for 2021.

The Board reviewed the 2022 projected budget and sought explanations for certain line items. Mr. Gibson referred to the personnel subcommittee comprised of Mr. Carman and Mr. Vona for suggestions regarding staff salaries. The Board reviewed line by line all actual and projected administrative expenses for 2022. Mr. Castro presented a year-to-year comparison with both actual and projected budgets. Mr. Castro's opinion was that the system's administrative cost has not increased beyond normal expectations.

Motion by Mr. Vona, seconded by Mr. Carman, to approve the project Budget for 2022.

Roll Call:

Mr. Castro	Yes
Mr. Vona	Yes

Mr. Carman Yes
Mr. Gibson Yes
Mr. Wellman Yes

The Motion passed.

The Board noted the upcoming election for the Second Member's position, as Mr. Vona's term ends on June 30, 2022.

Motion by Mr. Wellman, seconded by Mr. Carman, to approve Mr. Horan as the election officer for the upcoming election for Second Member's position.

Roll Call:

Mr. Castro Yes
Mr. Vona Yes
Mr. Carman Yes
Mr. Gibson Yes
Mr. Wellman Yes

The Motion passed.

Motion by Mr. Vona, seconded by Mr. Carman, to approve the January Expense Warrant and the December Payroll Warrant.

Roll Call:

Mr. Castro Yes
Mr. Vona Yes
Mr. Carman Yes
Mr. Gibson Yes
Mr. Wellman Yes

The Motion passed.

A Public Records Request from Bloomberg was received seeking investment returns from inception.

No Correspondence Received.

New Retirement Applications

<u>Name</u>	<u>Ret Date</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Service</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Dept</u>	<u>Group</u>
John Small	01/28/2022	Utility Locator	64	32 years 2 Months	SA, Option C	BLD	4

Motion by Mr. Vona, seconded by Mr. Wellman, to approve retirement applications.

Roll Call:

Mr. Castro	Yes
Mr. Vona	Yes
Mr. Carman	Yes
Mr. Gibson	Yes
Mr. Wellman	Yes

The Motion passed.

PERAC Memos: Reviewed PERAC memos #3 through #7 of 2022, including PERAC’s annual COLA notice.

The Board will schedule the meeting to elect a COLA for February 28, 2022, and will provide notice to the Town Meeting, even though notice is not statutorily required this year. The Board discussed the impact of the 2022 5.9% Social Security increase to recipients, which is based on the full Social Security benefit with no cap, in relation to the 3% of \$13,000 maximum COLA base for Belmont retirees. Mr. Gibson advised that several retirement boards are seeking to raise the base after three years of double-digit investment returns, arguing that the benefit of the excess returns should be shared by all contributors to the retirement system, not just taxpayers. Legislation has been submitted to increase the COLA base for the State and Teacher Retirement System.

Enrollment of New Members

<u>Name</u>	<u>Mem Date</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Department</u>	<u>Group</u>
John Conaty	TBD	Firefighter	Fire	4
Peter Donovan	TBD	Firefighter	Fire	4

Motion by Mr. Vona, seconded by Mr. Carman, to approve New Member Enrollment.

Roll Call:

Mr. Castro	Yes
Mr. Vona	Yes
Mr. Carman	Yes
Mr. Gibson	Yes
Mr. Wellman	Yes

The Motion passed.

Member Deaths

<u>Name</u>	<u>Death Date</u>	<u>Option</u>	<u>Years of Service</u>	<u>Retirement Date</u>	<u>Gross Monthly Benefit</u>
Ronald Cassidy	12/26/2021	B, No Remaining Annuity	30 Years; 6 months	10/31/1993	\$2,068.22

Lois Frost

DRO of Mr. Cassidy 12/26/2021 B, No 30 Years; 6 Months
Remaining
Annuity

Chair's Report: Mr. Gibson suggested that a Zoom Webinar for members was overdue, perhaps in the Spring of 2022, with a discussion of the interplay with Social Security included. Mr. Gibson also reiterated his idea of a newsletter for members.

Mr. Gibson suggested that involuntary disability retirement be further reviewed at the February meeting with both the member and the employer participating, which would be helpful to advise of the disability process and other retirement details.

Motion by Mr. Vona, seconded by Mr. Carman, to enter Executive Session under Purpose 4 of the Open Meeting Law, to discuss cybersecurity.

Roll Call:

Mr. Castro	Yes
Mr. Vona	Yes
Mr. Carman	Yes
Mr. Gibson	Yes
Mr. Wellman	Yes

The Motion passed.

Motion by Mr. Carman, seconded by Mr. Vona, to Adjourn Meeting.

Roll Call:

Mr. Castro	Yes
Mr. Vona	Yes
Mr. Carman	Yes
Mr. Gibson	Yes
Mr. Wellman	Yes

The Motion passed.

Meeting adjourns at 12:32 PM.

Documents Distributed:

January 24, 2022 Agenda
NEPC January 2022 Presentation
PERAC memo #3-7 of 2022
Revised Powers and Sullivan's Basic Financial Statement as of December 31, 2020

Respectfully Submitted,

Robert Soohoo
Executive Director

Approved by the Retirement Board:



February 28, 2022
